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OPINION METER
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Many say the CNMI economy is now improving. Do you feel it?

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INSIDE

NATION

White House meeting yields no progress on the government shutdown. ➤ PAGE 19

SCIENCE & TECH

Decoding patients' genes has solved some mystery diseases in kids and adults. ➤ PAGE 22

LIFE & STYLE

Tom Clancy, who wrote 'The Hunt for Red October,' dies at 66. ➤ PAGE 24

Improved status in US House bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Kilili among 120 co-sponsors of HR 15

A provision offering a pathway to U.S. citizenship for thousands of long-term, legal aliens in the CNMI is included in an immigration reform bill that Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced on Wednesday, four months since the Senate passage of S. 744.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is one of 120 co-sponsors of H.R. 15, called the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, which includes "specific provisions for the Northern Mariana Islands."

Like S. 744, which passed the U.S. Senate in June, HR 15 provides a path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants

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Kim-Tenorio nominated as judge

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 3 other women appointees include Labor secretary

Gov. Eloy S. Inos nominated yesterday his legal counsel, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, to serve as CNMI Superior Court associate judge, filling a vacancy since March. The appointment also comes some four months since the governor withdrew a previous nominee embroiled in controversies.

Kim-Tenorio would be the only woman in the CNMI Judiciary if confirmed by the Senate. She thanked the governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider for the nomination.

"I am humbled and honored," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "The nomination is the first of a few steps to actually becoming an associate judge. I will prepare to ensure our senators that their decision, should they choose to confirm my nomination, will be the right one; that they are confident in my

See JUDGE on Page 4

NO POWER, NO MOWER

Overgrown grass on the lawn greets passersby and visitors to the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan which, as of yesterday afternoon, also had partial power supply that, if not fixed, could result in days of temporary closure. At a time when the government is trying to promote CNMI arts and culture for its improving tourism, it continues to underfund the museum which, for years has not had curators or even a working lawn mower.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tinian workers' furlough eyed until next week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Delegation OKs $3.841M budget; Council yet to concur

» Administration expresses concern over local budget delay

Members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed yesterday morning a $3.841-million municipal budget bill for fiscal year 2014 but the furloughed 15 Tinian workers since Oct. 1 are not expected to return to work until at least early next week.

This is because a concurrence by the three-member Tinian Municipal Council chaired by Antonio S.N. Borja is still needed, and they have yet to hold a special session.

Borja said a special council session could be held this afternoon, Saturday or Monday, before the bill goes to the governor for action.

Today marks the fourth day of a partial shutdown on Tinian over a lack of a new municipal budget by Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2014.

The furloughed employees derive their salaries from casino industry revenues on Tinian. Most government personnel on Tinian are funded by CNMI general fund, and they are not affected by the furloughs.

While some Tinian officials blamed each other yesterday for the situation, all parties agreed in the end to work together to ensure the furloughed employees could return to work next week.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said yesterday that his office was not able to send their proposed budget to the delegation until a few weeks ago, owing to the lack of revenue generated from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for some seven months.

Dela Cruz said this contributed to the delay, and the delegation also needed time to go over the separate submissions from the mayor's office and the Tinian Gaming Control Commission before passing a local budget bill.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) reiterated yesterday that the other factors in the delay were lawmakers' focus on the CNMI-wide budget for 2014 and the Re-

See TINIAN on Page 4

Heavy rainfall seen this weekend. PAGE 2
US, Japan to deploy new radar, drones next year. PAGE 3

Local

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Senator slams CPA for its decision on Freedom Air

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Senate Vice President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) on Tuesday criticized the Commonwealth Ports Authority board for rescinding its decision to give Freedom Air 90 days to settle its $1.23-million debt.

"This drastic action by the board…is very troubling considering the fact that the Rota Legislative Delegation previously appealed to the board to reconsider giving Freedom Air additional time to settle its debt. The delegation is actively working with Freedom Air to obtain financial assistance," said Hocog in a letter to CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama declined to comment on Hocog's letter until she confers with the board.

The CPA board voted on Monday to give the troubled carrier only until Oct. 31, 2013, to settle its debt or it would be evicted from the airport's premises.

Hocog also sent an Open Government Act request to CPA asking it to provide the Senate with all documents, including the minutes of the meeting that led to the board's decision to rescind its earlier decision to grant Freedom Air a three-month extension to settle its arrears.

In his letter to Lifoifoi, Hocog said that "despite the CNMI's ailing economy and delayed government payments, Freedom Air continues to assist the people of Rota who desperately need inter-island medical referral transportation and provides cargo shipments of medical specimens and supplies that is vital for the health and welfare of its people."

He said it is "incomprehensible" how the CPA board simply ignored the safety and livelihood of the people of Rota who struggle with the lack of or limited air and sea transportation.

"While I respect the board's obligation to collect debts owed to CPA, the board must balance that with its obligation to provide consistent and reasonably priced air transportation to the people of Rota."

Without Freedom Air, Hocog said it would be more difficult and expensive to provide interisland medical referral and transportation and cargo medical shipments.

Last Friday, Freedom Air filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Guam. The filing allows Freedom Air to temporarily hold creditors, such as CPA, at bay.

DUE TO TROPICAL DISTURBANCE

Heavy rainfall seen this weekend

Numerous showers and heavy rainfall are expected over Saipan, Tinian, and the northern Marianas starting today and into the weekend due to a developing tropical disturbance.

The tropical disturbance, which is now the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, has the potential to become a tropical depression within the next 24 hours, according to the National Weather Service in Guam as of 11:20am yesterday.

NWS said the tropical disturbance is located east of Tinian, Saipan, and the northern Marianas and is expected to continue to move westward between Saipan and Anatahan.

Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected into the weekend as the disturbance passes over the northern Marianas.

"Rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches are likely with higher amounts possible. Flash flooding is possible in areas of prolonged and heavy rainfall," NWS said.

NWS and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management advised the public yesterday to stay informed on this tropical disturbance and keep abreast of the latest forecasts and further statements and possible warnings. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US, Japan to deploy new radar, drones next year

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MATTHEW LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—The United States and Japan moved Thursday to modernize and expand their defense alliance to counter new 21st century challenges including the continuing threat from nuclear-armed North Korea and potential aggression from China over disputed territory.

Revamping the guidelines of their defense partnership for the first time in 16 years, the allies agreed to position a second early-warning radar in Japan within the next year to help protect against North Korea. And by next spring, they will deploy new long-range surveillance drones to help monitor disputed islands in the East China Sea, a move that may well raise tensions with Beijing.

The foreign and defense ministers of the two countries also, for the first time, put a price on what Japan will contribute to the relocation of Marines out of Okinawa to Guam and other locations in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will pay up to $3.1 billion of the move, which includes development of new facilities in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel met with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera and afterward laid out the details of the session. The talks, ahead of President Barack Obama's visits to Indonesia and Brunei next week, were aimed at modernizing the American-Japanese alliance that both sides maintain is a cornerstone of peace and stability in North Asia.

» Japan to foot $3.1 billion cost to relocate Marines to Guam, CNMI

"Japan is changing and so is its neighborhood," Kerry told reporters at a press conference after the meeting. "So we're coming together now to modernize our deep cooperation, through both our military alliances and our diplomatic partnerships, and that is so we can better prevent and respond to the ever-changing threats of the 21st century."

The deep neighborhood divisions were underscored, even as the meeting went on, when a new naval exercise between the U.S., Japan and South Korea scheduled for next week was disclosed, provoking a swift response from North Korea. In a statement, the National Peace Committee of Korea condemned the exercise, which will include the USS George Washington aircraft carrier and its strike group, as reckless saber-rattling.

The new X-band radar system, in fact, is designed to protect the region against the North Korean threat, boosting Japan's ability to track and intercept missiles from across the Sea of Japan. Officials have stressed it is not directed at China. Kerry acknowledged the threat from Pyongyang, but also said the U.S. was willing to sign a non-aggression pact with North Korea if it gives up its nuclear weapons and complies with international demands.

The drones, meanwhile, are designed in part to help step up surveillance around the Senkaku islands, a source of heated debate between Japan and China. Under the plan, two or three will fly out of a U.S. base. While the U.S. has operated unmanned aircraft over Japan in the past, for example during the 2011 tsunami, this would be the first time that drones would be based in Japan.

More broadly, the documents agreed to on Thursday contain no direct mention of the Senkakus, easily one of the most contentious issues affecting security in the Pacific. Despite that, the territorial dispute over the remote, uninhabited islands was a prime topic during the meeting and of the statements by the leaders afterward.

Hagel said the U.S. reiterated that while Washington takes no side on the question of the islands' sovereignty, it recognizes Japan's administration of them and has responsibilities to protect Japanese territory under a mutual defense treaty.

"We strongly oppose any unilateral or coercive action that seeks to undermine Japan's administrative control," he said.

China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday, which is part of a weeklong national holiday. Beijing has criticized the installation of the first military radar system, as announced last month, to monitor Pyongyang's military activities. Foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei then said the plans could affect regional stability and upset the strategic balance.

The U.S. has watched warily as tensions between Japan and China have heated up over the Senkakus, badly souring their relations and leading to bellicose talk and actions from both sides. China has increased patrols near the Japanese-administered islands that it calls Diaoyu.

Successive U.S. administrations have held to the position that the two nations must sort out their differences over the Senkakus peacefully, and that remains the case. U.S. officials said the position was so well known that there was no need to address it in the agreements.

Kishida, referring to the island dispute as well as the ongoing North Korea threat, said the security environment "has become increasingly severe." He added, "We are decidedly opposed to the attempt to change the status quo through coercion. Rule of law is critically important."

A senior administration official said the U.S. continues to believe that the most effective policy is to continue to make those points publicly and privately while encouraging the two sides to tone down rhetoric and refrain from actions that may be seen by the other as provocative. It is not in U.S. interests, nor those of Japan or China, for the chill between Tokyo and Beijing to be prolonged, the official said.

Kerry said the U.S. continues to have frank discussions with China, laying out "lines that shouldn't be crossed." He added that "a rising China is welcome as long as that China wants to engage according to international standards."

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TINIAN

From Page 1

tirement Fund settlement agreement.

The mayor and the delegation—which consists of chair Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), and Conner—met in an executive session prior to the vote on the spending measure, Tinian Local Bill 18-1.

By a vote of 4-0, the Tinian delegation passed the local budget bill at 11:02am yesterday.

It appropriates $3.841 million in projected revenues from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Gaming Control Commission, Tinian Municipal Treasury, and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan for fiscal year 2014.

Of the $3.841 million in anticipated local funds, $2.782 million is projected to come from casino tax revenue; $1 million from casino license fees; $23,000 from employee fees; $20,250 from gaming device fees; and $15,000 from casino service industry.

The 2014 proposed Tinian municipal budget of $3.841 million is a bit higher than the $3.5-million local Tinian budget law in 2013.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said this is "concerning because this should have been a priority to act on, especially given that this year's [CNMI] government budget was enacted into law earlier than previous years."

"Now, the municipal employees [on] Tinian are caught in [a] situation where many of them cannot report to work until the delegation and the municipal council approve a spending plan that still needs to be reviewed and approved by the governor," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

JUDGE

From Page 1

ability to judge fairly and impartially."

The governor appointed yesterday a total of four women to leadership posts, in a nod to the emerging role of women in today's society.

These include former Workforce Investment Agency executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero to serve as the new Labor secretary.

Inos also named Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, and Shirley T. Sablan to the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors.

All four appointments require the Senate's advice and consent.

The governor hopes that these "qualified women will help bring a different voice to the organizations they have been nominated to."

"I am pleased to submit this group of qualified women who are ready and eager to help our community. After a thorough vetting process, I believe that this is it, these individuals have so much to offer for the common good of our islands," Inos said in a statement.

The governor also hopes the Senate will act swiftly and favorably on his latest nominations.

"With so many issues on the table today, it is important to ensure that all sectors of our society are represented within our government. That's why I believe it's important to strike a balance and learn from the ideas of emerging women who can and will make a difference," he added.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said the nominations have yet to be referred to his committee as of yesterday afternoon.

The EAGI committee reviews the governor's nominations and come up with recommendation for confirmation or rejection to the full Senate.

Judge nominee

Kim-Tenorio has been serving as legal counsel for Inos starting when the latter was still lieutenant governor and even after he became governor in February.

If confirmed by the Senate, Kim-Tenorio will fill the void in the Superior Court left behind by then associate judge Perry B. Inos, now serving as associate justice for the CNMI Supreme Court.

Kim-Tenorio's nomination comes some six months since the governor withdrew on June 9 the nomination of attorney Ramon "Ray" King Quichocho to the same post.

That ended a monthlong controversy on Quichocho's background and peer evaluation results.

STATUS

From Page 1

living in the U.S. illegally and tightens border security.

Sablan, in response to *Saipan Tribune* questions, said he has worked to be sure that people who were protected under Commonwealth immigration law remain protected under federal law.

"So someone who was born in the Northern Marianas before 1978, or who became a permanent resident under CNMI law, or is part of a U.S.-citizen family will be able to remain in the Northern Marianas—just as we permitted under our own local law. These residents will be able to work and travel and after five years apply for a green card under the bill passed by the U.S. Senate and under the new House bill. Without that, their fate would be uncertain," he said.

HR 15 combines major elements of S. 744 that passed in June with bipartisan border security legislation that won unanimous support in the Homeland Security Committee in May.

"Getting immigration reform signed into law remains an uphill climb. Many people in Congress and around our country are opposed. But I believe the time has come to take action and fix immigration—for our country and for the Northern Mariana Islands; and I will keep working toward that goal," Sablan said.

The delegate also spoke about the need to fix the country's immigration problem.

Sablan said the situation in the CNMI "is a bit different."

"We do not have the same border security issues and there are few individuals who are out of status. But we do have lots of mixed families. And our businesses also need foreign labor," the delegate said.

He said national immigration legislation is an opportunity to fix those problems.

"We have to make sure, however, that the national policy fits our specific needs. That is why it is so important that any major immigration bill includes unique provisions for the Northern Marianas, as H.R. 15 does," he added.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, lauded the efforts to include the CNMI in a House version of an immigration reform bill.

"It's about time long-term legal aliens in the CNMI are given pathway to improved status. With the economy improving and the need for more labor, it is fitting to grant aliens improved status and eliminate uncertainty in the workforce and the economy. We hope this bill will move forward," Sagana said.

Sablan said S. 744 and H.R. 15 also fix problems for businesses and the CNMI economy that were created when federal immigration came to the islands.

"Right now, businesses don't even know if they will have any CW workers after 2014. H.R. 15 ends that uncertainty and ends the burden of annual CW applications and fees," he said.

The bill recognizes that the population has already dropped from 80,000 to 50,000 and that the economy cannot afford to lose more consumers and taxpayers.

"So, the bill allows workers, who have lived here since before 2003, to stay. They can work. They can travel off-island. Then—after an additional five years contributing to the Northern Marianas—they can apply to be a U.S. permanent resident, if they want to. That's fair and it's good for our economy," Sablan said.

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AS U.S. GOVT SHUTDOWN DRAGS ON

It's business as usual at federal court

» Situation will be reassessed on Oct. 15

It's business as usual at the U.S. District Court for the NMI, but in two weeks the federal Judiciary will reassess the situation as a result of the first U.S. government shutdown in 17 years.

A visit by *Saipan Tribune* since Tuesday, the start of the shutdown, showed that the federal court's operations remain normal.

Court staff refused to comment about the shutdown issue.

The federal court's website announced that the federal Judiciary will remain open for business for approximately 10 business days.

On Oct. 15, the court said the Judiciary will reassess its situation and provide further guidance.

"All proceedings and deadlines remain in effect as scheduled, unless otherwise advised. Case management/electronic case files will remain in operation for the electronic filing of documents with courts," according to the announcement.

The court will conduct hearings on seven criminal cases today, Friday.

The U.S. immigration court on Saipan has been closed indefinitely. It has one regular staff assigned on the island. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TMLC orientation draws 11 prospective Lions

The Tinian Marianas Lions Club held an orientation on Sunday with no less than CNMI Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas among the 11 prospective Lions that attended the event at the Tinian Junior and Senior High School cafeteria.

The local Lions Club's president, Liz Hofschneider, said that San Nicolas came with his wife, Vilma, who is also interested in joining the civic group.

Guamerica Lions Club's Mila Alcazaren, who was assisted by Guam Galaide Lions Club's James Terbio, conducted the orientation, which followed TMLC's medical outreach.

Aside from the Lions Club orientation, TMLC also held a Leo Club presentation for prospective youth members. Some 20 attended the event that was conducted by Guam Spirit Lions Club's Romy Angel.

TMLC later recognized sponsors of the TMLC medical outreach that occurred earlier Sunday. Ladyvir Canape and Paul Madriaga were also pinned for being Guiding Lions during the event.

Lions Club district governor Annabelle Dancel said her team from Guam is always ready to give their newest club on Tinian a helping hand.

"We are honored to serve our brothers and sisters [on] Tinian. District 204, through the contribution of Tinian Marianas Lions Club and other corporate community partners, hope to make this an annual event," referring to the medical mission. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Kanoa Resort donates to 'Top Chef' competition

Kanoa Resort became the latest business to make a donation to the "Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition" set for Nov. 30 at the Pacific Islands Club.

The Susupe hotel donated gift certificates, including a one-night stay for two, two dinners for two, and two $25 gift certificates to Nami Bar.

"We are deeply touched by the generosity of sponsors and individuals like Kanoa Resort who are supporting our event through their donations or buying tickets for our event. We are grateful and looking forward to more supporters and sponsors," said Rose Smith, founder of the Empty Vessel Ministry and organizer of the competition.

Kanoa Resort resident manager Mark Ratliff said the hotel is more than happy to donate for a good cause.

"Kanoa Resort is honored to help the Empty Vessel Ministry even in a small way. I believe this is a very special group of ladies who are working so hard to help the community. It is always nice to see people dedicated in helping other people. I personally would like to thank all of the members of the Empty Vessel Ministry and say from all of the Kanoa staff 'great job.'"

Smith also took time thank "Saipan Next Top Chef Competition" 2012 winner Emmanuel Pachan for helping sell tickets during last week's Garapan Street Market and Mariana Resort & Spa for providing free cookies to children and tourists.

Tickets for this year's Chef Competition can be purchased for just $15 at the Garapan Street Market or Empty vessel office in Gualo Rai or at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The competition raises funds for Empty Vessel's outreach projects in Kenya, the Philippines, and Bangladesh.

Empty Vessel (www.emptyvesselministry.org) is a 501(c)(3) charity and all donations are tax deductible. ***(Mark Rabago)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 3rd birthday to Kiana Jade Petra Babauta Camacho, who is celebrating her special day today! You are the greatest blessing I could ever have. I love you forever and always. Greetings coming out from Mommy and the rest of the family.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

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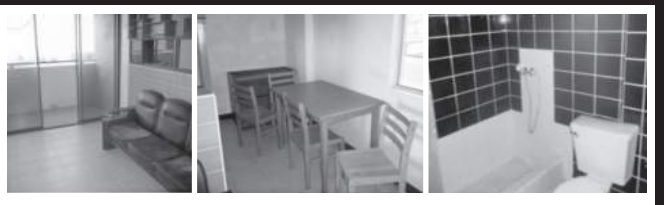

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Joeten Memorial Golf Classic (JMGC) committee chair Somia Quan, fourth from left on front row, receives a $15,000 donation from Bank of Guam Saipan branch president Marcy Tomokane, third from left on front row, for the upcoming fundraiser golf tournament scheduled for November 9, 2013 at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort. Also in the photo are other members of the JMGC organizing committee, along with Bank of Guam Saipan branch vice president and branch manager Larry Philip, far right on front row.

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To improve timeliness and accuracy of bills,
CUC has made several system and procedural changes.
As a result, some CUC customers will have different
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These changes are effective for bills
produced beginning October 1, 2013.

YOUR DUE DATE MAY HAVE CHANGED.
Please review your next CUC bill carefully and take note
of the due date. Thank you for your understanding.

In recognition of their generous cash donation, Bank of Guam was named title sponsor by the organizing committee of the upcoming Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, a fundraiser golf tournament event.

"It is with great pleasure that we partner with Joeten in their endeavor to give back to the community," said Marcy Tomokane, Bank of Guam Saipan branch president.

"We are very fortunate and grateful that we have a company like Bank of Guam who truly believes in Joeten's charitable arm and the foundation's mission," said JMGC chair Somia Quan. "In the end, their donation will go a long way for those who need it most."

There are four different sponsorship packages offered by the tournament committee: Founder's Club ($5,000), Trustees' Club ($2,500), Eagle Club ($1,000), and Friends of JCF ($999 and below).

The Joeten Memorial Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013, at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort. The tournament will be a stroke play, low gross format. First, second, and third place winners in the Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors flight divisions will each receive prizes.

In addition to winner prizes, the Joeten Memorial Golf Classic will be offering prizes for hole-in-one, closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and most accurate buy-ins.

The tournament will be followed by an awards lunch banquet and raffle. The raffle will have $1 and $5 tickets, and will include some great prizes.

Registration fee is $95 and forms are available at all Joeten locations, Ace Hardware, Joeten Superstore,The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, AllStar Sporting Goods, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters. Completed forms can be turned in and paid at Joeten Motors Parts Department using cash, check, or credit card.

For information about this tournament, contact Somia Quan at 234-6446 or via email at joeten-mgc@joeten.com. ***(PR)***

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High Court dismisses nearly all claims related to pollution

The Supreme Court upheld Wednesday the trial court's dismissal of nearly all of the claims brought by plaintiffs against Mobil in the case *Atalig v. Mobil Oil.*

This group of plaintiffs brought seven claims against Mobil based upon allegations of dangerous pollution by Mobil. In particular, the plaintiffs alleged that Mobil emitted harmful substances into the air without taking proper measures to ensure those discharges did not injure others.

The Supreme Court, after narrowly finding the plaintiffs alleged adequate standing (or an injury) to sue, affirmed nearly all of the Superior Court's order granting Mobil's motion to dismiss the claims because the plaintiffs did not allege enough facts. These missing facts included basic information about Mobil's pollution. In explaining the application of the legal standard to overcome a motion to dismiss, the High Court pointed out the numerous flaws contained in the amended complaint filed by the plaintiffs. These flaws, the Supreme Court said, precluded it from making the inferences necessary to save the complaint from a motion to dismiss.

Additionally, the High Court concluded that the plaintiffs had exhausted their chances to amend their complaint. In so deciding, the justices noted how the plaintiffs had several opportunities to supplement these factual deficiencies, including at their most recent hearing before the Supreme Court, but the plaintiffs could not offer any additional facts that would save their complaint.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Atalig v. Mobil Oil*, 2013 MP 11, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme13.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

UOG Pacific Islands SBDC Network gets full accreditation

The University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network, or PISBDCN, has been fully accredited with no conditions by America's Small Business Development Center Network. Accreditation qualifies PISBDCN to apply for Small Business Administration funds administered by the Office of Small Business Development Centers. PISBDCN's next scheduled accreditation review will be in 2018.

The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network was reviewed in June 2013 by Mike Myhre of the Florida SBDC and Mark Langford of the North Texas SBDC Network. The review encompassed the general accreditation standards developed and deployed in cooperation with its federal funding partner, the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Accreditation is important for each of the 63 SBDC Networks across the U.S. and its territories and is essential for the national SBDC program to be recognized as a high quality economic development organization," said Casey Jeszenka, UOG PISBDCN director. "The PISBDCN at UOG wants to congratulate the staff, SBDC Service center hosts, and supporters for making this accreditation without conditions happen!"

The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network is a resource for expert business advice and guidance in all areas of business management, including pre-venture feasibility, business plan development, marketing, record keeping, financial and human resource management, operations management, and access to capital (loans and investors), as well as specialized areas such as international trade and technical services.

SBDC counselors offer one-on-one confidential counseling at no charge to ensure information is available for small businesses to make the right decisions. Small business trainings are also offered at low to no cost. Conveniently located in seven locations throughout Micronesia (Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and the CNMI), SBDC offers a host of services designed to help start, sustain and/or grow businesses, achieve higher profits and improve operations. Learn more at www.pacificsbdc.com.

America's Small Business Development Center Network is a partnership uniting private enterprise, government, higher education and local nonprofit economic development organizations. It is the Small Business Administration's largest partnership program, providing management and technical assistance to help Americans start, run and grow their own businesses. With about 1,000 centers across the nation, America's SBDC network provided business consulting to approximately 200,000 clients, training for more than 400,000 attendees, and other forms of management and technical assistance to approximately 600,000 small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs last year. Learn more at www.asbdc-us.org. ***(UOG)***

LET'S MOVE Marianas

Yengyung with the Kangkung

Let's Move Marianas 2013 Expo!

would like to thank the following Sponsors, Exhibitors, Volunteers, and Committee Organizations for making this event a great success:

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- Northern Marianas College CDI/Area Health Education Center
- Northern Marianas Athletics
- Youth Affairs Office
- Ayuda Network
- Coastal Recourse Management
- Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc
- Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition
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- Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- KKMP Charitable Foundation
- DCCA:
  - ➢ Division of Youth Services
  - ➢ Sports and Recreation
  - ➢ Child Care Developmental Fund
- CNMI Public School System
- DEQ
- Ayuda Network
- Commonwealth Cancer Association
- Joeten Kiyu Public Library
- Center for Living Independently

NMC instructor keynotes English language confab

Northern Marianas College English instructor Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson was recently featured as one of the keynote speakers at the Second International Conference on English Language Teaching, Literature, and Translation in Semarang, Indonesia.

At the conference, Bunts-Anderson spoke about the main topic of her paper titled "What Students Say and What Teachers Think: Informal Talk in ESL Learning," which explores the importance of interacting with others in language learning and related issues. It also discusses the perspectives of the teachers, as well as the students, during this exchange drawing on multiple perspectives illustrated with data collected from two studies done.

Bunts-Anderson's speech and paper will be published in an academic journal that will include the conference's other keynote speakers, as well as selected papers submitted by other participants. The theme of the conference was "Issues and Challenges in English Language Teaching, Literature and Translation."

Bunts-Anderson has a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from New Mexico State University, and a masters degree in Education in TESOL/LOTE (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/Languages Other than English) from the University of Sydney. She also has a doctorate in Linguistics and Psychology from Macquarie University in Australia, and has been a teacher and researcher in TESOL for over 20 years.

The aim of the second International Conference on English Language Teaching, Literature, and Translation was to address issues related to the English language including teaching, literature and translation by facilitating discussions and presentations between teachers, students, researchers and those interested in this particular area.

The conference was organized by the English Department of the State University of Semarang (Unversitas Negeri Semarang, or UNNES) in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy's Regional English Language Office in Jakarta and the Arab World English Journal. ***(NMC)***

DEQ sets Makaka Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Makaka Beach on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Makaka Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

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LOCATIONS - Saipan & Rota

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 4, 2005

7 fishermen off the hook

After days of silence, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources declared that it would not press charges against seven persons who were reportedly caught fishing within the Bird Island Sanctuary. In a prepared statement given to the *Saipan Tribune*, the DLNR acquitted the seven persons, saying that its conservation officers lacked conclusive evidence to positively identify any of the fishermen and their boat at the time when they were fishing within the sanctuary, where the law prohibits the taking of marine life. The alleged failure to identify the culprits and their boat happened even as the DLNR also claimed that Fish and Wildlife conservation officers had observed the fishing activity at the sanctuary for about four hours—from 9pm until 1am the following morning two Sundays ago.

Continental starts layoff of Saipan employees

Some Continental Micronesia employees have already lost their jobs on Saipan in view of the pullout of Japan Airlines from the Marianas route effective today. Continental Micronesia staff vice president for sales and marketing Wally Dias confirmed yesterday that, as earlier announced, Saipan employees would lose their jobs beginning this week due to loss of service contracts with Japan Airlines and Northwest Airlines. He declined to specify, however, the number of employees who have already been let go. Currently, he said, Continental Micronesia has 150 staff on Saipan. By January 2006, the number of personnel will be down to 35.

October 4, 2006

Tinian road mishaps, burglary blamed on lack of streetlights

A Tinian senator has attributed recent road accidents and a burglary on the island to the lack of adequate lighting on public streets as caused by ongoing austerity measures-a claim that the Tinian mayor has dismissed as "nonsense." In a letter to Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas yesterday, Sen. Jude U. Hofscneider called on the latter "not to sacrifice safety issues," saying there have been at least two automobile accidents and one burglary of a commercial business in San Jose village during the evening hours. "It's my opinion that these incidents may have been prevented if there had been more adequate lighting," said the senator.

Quitugua, Torres volunteer pay cuts

Two other lawmakers have volunteered to cut their salaries by 10 percent for fiscal year 2007. House Vice Speaker Justo S. Quitugua and Rep. Stanley Torres separately wrote Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, authorizing him to make the necessary pay reduction. "In joining other government employees.and realize some financial savings for the government, I hereby volunteer 10 percent reduction of my legislative salary," said Quitugua in an Aug. 22, 2006 letter to the secretary. Quitugua represents Precinct 4 in the House of Representatives. Torres, who is from Precinct 3, said his pay reduction is "in solidarity [with] the hardworking employees who have been reduced or will be receiving a reduction in their income due to the austerity measures."

October 4, 2007

Job types for locals only deemed unconstitutional

The law barring alien workers in the CNMI from working in certain job categories has been deemed unconstitutional, after a federal court ruling determined that the CNMI government provided no basis for the statute. In a ruling issued Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson said the CNMI government failed to provide any rational basis why nonresident workers should be completely barred from being employed in specific job classifications.

House overrides six vetoed bills

The House of Representatives voted yesterday to override the governor's veto of six bills, including three relating to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. This marks a departure from the House majority's previous tendency to go by the administration's policy, which at some point earned them the label "rubberstamp Legislature." During a session yesterday, the House voted on one vetoed bill after another, reversing the governor's decision to thumb them down. "It's the season of discontent," said House minority leader Arnold I. Palacios.

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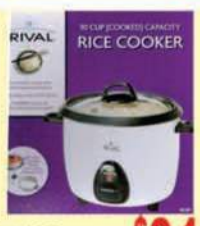

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
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How a choice offered can affect what we choose

By MICHELLE N. MEYER and CHRISTOPHER CHABRIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

News came last month that the Obama administration, following the lead of British Prime Minister David Cameron and his government's so-called Nudge Unit, is recruiting behavioral scientists to help shape regulatory policy. Nudges are ways of offering choices that make people more likely to choose a particular option but preserve their ability to make a different choice.

This usage of "nudge" was coined in 2008 by economist Richard Thaler and legal scholar Cass Sunstein, but the concept was first studied more than a decade ago by economist Brigitte Madrian and insurance executive Dennis Shea. They noted that when employees joined a company with a retirement savings plan like a 401(k), they typically had to affirmatively choose to enroll. Then they had to select investment options and specify an amount to save from each paycheck.

Setting aside income tax-free for retirement is good for most employees. But for various reasons, including inertia, many failed to enroll. Madrian and Shea evaluated the effect of a simple solution: switch the default choice so that employees must check a box to opt out of the savings plan rather than opt in. Then, if the employees did nothing, a default percentage of their salary would go to a default investment. After the change, the number of savers jumped.

Several features of this archetypal nudge should make it attractive to people of all political stripes. Employees have exactly the same choices before and after the nudge; nudges by definition neither forbid nor mandate any choice. And the nudge makes it more likely that nudgees will, in reflective moments, feel they made the best choice they themselves prefer.

In the wake of the Obama administration's announcement, some have called governmental nudges manipulative, even creepy. But there is no evidence that nudges alter individual preferences. What is true is that some nudges work without our being aware of them. If you don't read your employment documents, then after the 401(k) nudge, you will save for retirement, whereas you would not have before. But people whose behavior flips when the default option changes are likely deciding on autopilot anyway.

Are such unexamined "choices" worth preserving in light of the considerable benefits that nudges can yield for both individuals and society, often by encouraging personal responsibility and forward-looking behavior? In Britain, simply telling taxpayers that most of their peers paid up on time increased timely filing by 15 percent over a three-month period. And asking people who lost their jobs to devise concrete plans for finding new ones led to a 15 percent to 20 percent decrease in their likelihood of claiming unemployment benefits 13 weeks later. Those are win-wins.

Nudges enjoy an additional, overlooked advantage over other forms of regulation: Before they are enacted, they can be evaluated with randomized, controlled trials to ensure that they are effective. This would be impractical and arguably unethical with tax incentives and outright bans.

Of course, just because nudges can be tested does not ensure that they will be. Obamacare requires chain restaurants to post calorie counts for standard menu items, a policy similar to one enacted by New York City in 2008. It seems intuitive that this should nudge consumers to make better choices, thereby reducing obesity and saving potentially billions of dollars in healthcare spending.

But that intuition was not tested experimentally in advance, and

See CHOICE on Next Page

IF A TREE FALLS IN A NATIONAL FOREST AND THERE'S NO RANGER ON DUTY TO SEE IT...
GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
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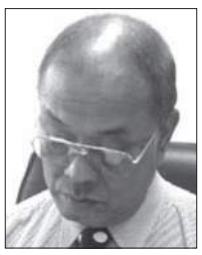
DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ?

GOP's new cover, same old pages



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The GOP's new chairman came out last Saturday on Marianas Agupa, announcing the reorganization of an old team. He took over the helm from its former head, impeached former governor Benigno R. Fitial, who's now hibernating in Manila.

The new head, Jack P. Villagomez, means well but seemingly ignores that the incumbent or sitting administration is the Republican Party. He is now in command of the GOP, but is he prepared to shoulder the entire nine yards of complete failure in policy that sent the multitude spinning into the abysmal pits of abject poverty?

Firstly, there's the cumulative CNMI deficit of some $1.148 billion. How do we reconcile this fiscal mess against obligations that spike by leaps and bounds annually?

Furthermore, there's the Republican administration's obvious decision to cut 25 percent of retirees' pension in complete violation of Article 3, Section 20 of the CNMI Constitution. This provision prohibits the diminishment or impairment of contractual agreement. Mr. Villagomez asserted that the GOP would "do things right." I couldn't agree more! Now shouldn't the first order of business be one of "fidelity to the rule of law?"

Moreover, some 3,000 families have relocated to Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland fully aware of the lack of economic opportunity here since recent past. It means joblessness for them. Did the incumbent Republican leadership do anything of significance to reverse the tiny paradise from turning into a hellish hole?

It's all about leadership competency, isn't it? Whatever happened to the failed promise of "better times"? Displacing some 12,000 plus of our very own is far from my definition of competent leadership.

What about the high cost of utilities that has forced closure of a lot of small businesses? Isn't another increase due in October? What pricey GOP agenda so disorienting as it promises to do "what's right." It's a mind-numbing challenge, isn't it? No worries. People memorize these issues by heart.

These aren't criticisms per se, for the information are factual and can stand on their own. Neither am I bridging covert hostility to the new GOP chairman for we've known each other for years. It's simply an observation of the Achilles heel (weakness) of an incumbent administration who must visit the hellish inferno of its failure in hopes of successfully justifying, well, its grand failure!

"Start, Stop, Drop" syndrome

Occasionally, we run into a thick wall of suspect mouth-off of indigenous rights by the "we few" tired politicians searching for relevance. I relish the "idea" and the healthy exchange inherent in it. But isn't this agenda mired in the usual local forte of "start, stop and drop"?

It's a challenge navigating the disoriented views situated front and center in the unerring influence of neocolonialism. It's obvious the missing equation of unity and percipiency. It takes more than suspect declaration and political pirouette to move this agenda forward.

In other words, in the absence of a religious level commitment on indigenous rights, it's all but empty political theatrics that would fizzle out before sunset. It's headed that way now.

Moreover, we're riding aboard neocolonialism under the guise of self-government. In its simplest form, self-government is actually a front to advancing neocolonialism. It's difficult discerning the subtleties given the years of cooptation that plants a sense of servility that neocolonialism is the end of our journey. The clever insertion of "self-government" is to absolve the colonial power [US] so it freely trumpets that it has in fact fulfilled "decolonization."

But within the tool of neocolonialism, isn't it true that self-government has been emasculated by the willful imposition of federal policies that have annihilated the local economy and robbed the indigenous people of the true exercise of self-government? Neocolonialism is about building dependency. *Adios*, self-government!

Disoriented cultural driftwood

Self-anointed constitutional scholar Ambrose Bennett has demonstrated his ignorance of the long history of colonial powers using forced acquisition of indigenous land for their purposes. It included the killing of indigenous people defending ancestral land.

This was done in Hawaii where Uncle Sam forcibly destroyed the last Hawaiian monarchy in order to acquire ceded land and other indigenous properties to benefit military interest and white investors

See GOP on Next Page

A Chinese poster

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

During the normal course of conversation my pals all over the world are remarking on the same thing: Chinese tourists have joined the jet-setting class with enthusiasm. They're everywhere! It's a good time to be fielding these observations, since just this morning I got my paws on a useful tool for improving my Chinese language skills. It's a poster of the most commonly used 1,500 Chinese characters. I ordered it from MandarinPoster.com.

The poster costs $23.95 with shipping included. The website takes the usual array of payment options and I used PayPal.

The poster arrived in a sturdy cardboard tube, and the tube also included a dry-erase marker. The poster is made of laminated paper and the big idea here is to mark off the characters as you learn them. It's a good way to motivate yourself to make progress, and I can envision it as a great way to play "stump the chump" with fellow students.

Just to be safe, I was careful about removing the poster from the tube, and I wound up the poster a bit so it didn't get rubbed, snagged, or ripped by the tube during removal.

The posters from this company come in several arrangements, including simplified and traditional characters, which is an important distinction to students. The one I chose has simplified characters (used in mainland China and in Singapore) and beneath them the corresponding "pinyin." Pinyin is a phonetic method often used by students, and it's also how I use my Chinese word processor. Those so inclined (I wasn't) can also order a poster that has the English definitions of the characters.

To put things in rough perspective, 1,500 Chinese characters would probably keep the typical student engaged for three years or so. I base that guesstimate on the courses that I took, which taught about 250 to 300 characters per semester. As they say, "your mileage may vary," so anyone digging into this will have to nail down their own estimates.

I haven't owned a poster since I was decorating my college dorm room. So I haven't yet figured out where to put this thing. It's a large poster, measuring about 39 inches wide by 27 inches high.

But having looked it over, I can say that I like it. It's a well-executed design of a very good idea. It's a practical tool, and so much the better that I don't have to boot up a computer or even crack a book to use it. Once I find a place to hang it, I welcome having a way to keep engaged in Chinese whenever I have a spare few seconds to look at the poster. So it's one way to tickle my brain without actually studying.

Beyond its easy practicality, the poster does things right by not doing anything wrong. The print is large, clear, and generously spaced, so it's easy to read. That might seem like a no-brainer, but a surprisingly large number of educational publications suffer from glaring problems in their print, ranging from characters that are too small to be read without a scanning electron microscope, to pinyin that is missing the all-important tone marks, to goofy layouts that have no place on planet Earth.

The poster is arranged such that the most commonly used character comes first, the second most commonly used character comes second, and so on.

Referring to the poster, we see that the most commonly used character means "of." Next come the characters that mean "one," then "person," then "I."

Coming in at last place, which is to say, No. 1,500, is the character for "recommend."

You don't have to buy a poster to get a feel for this stuff. The "Resources" section of MandarinPoster.com has the characters and their definitions listed.

You might want to know how they determined just which characters are the most commonly used. I don't know. That's way over my head. But such listings are common, so there must be an established school of thought, and of data, in this realm.

Since we're on the subject, I'll mention something I have found about Chinese. The characters easily slip out of my memory, and my friends have reported the same problem. It's one thing to cram for a test and spew out the answers in the classroom. But it's quite another thing for a character to stick in long-term memory and, furthermore, to be readily available on demand.

Last month I conducted a merciless inventory of my Chinese vocabulary, and as it turns out I managed to forget almost 20 percent of my vocabulary list.

I'm in the process of back-filling those holes. Still, it just proves that out of sight really is out of mind, and I bought this poster to counteract that force.

After all, those Chinese tourists are going places, and I hope my Chinese skills wind up going places, too.

GOP

From Page 10

in the sugar and pineapple industries. The price of land was rigged in order to ensure that indigenous Polynesian Hawaiians wouldn't be able to afford buying land with their beggar salaries. Subsequently, landownership was made a voting requirement to further displace our Polynesian kin.

Therefore, Mr. Bennett, it isn't the "Hawaiian scare" as you described it. Death and destruction were what Polynesians had to endure, an historical fact. Your obvious lack of percipiency on land and tradition in the "sea of islands" throughout the Pacific had you spouting ignorance by failing to put issues into contextual perspective based on historical facts. At best, you peddled intellectual dishonesty pretending you know best what you don't, fronting arrogance in your derogatory views.

Our Polynesian kin have begun the long journey to reclaiming what's historically theirs and aren't asking for someone else's properties. Their cultural affinity to land and their tradition is paramount in their lives. You will never be able to understand it unless you're a natural heir of our prism as islanders. In short, we know what's ours, we know our people; we know what we want and what it takes to get there.

We're tired of the belittling, derogatory denigration of our people and culture inherent in your unsolicited views. Can we now tell "our story" constructively using our prism?

Your claim that God wants you here is an excuse. He also made sure Frank and I are also here as permanent hosts to guard against gobbledygook peddlers or cultural shipwrecks like you. Fair assessment? We have the unequivocal advantage of standing tall and firm on our cultural and traditional foundation. Are you similarly situated?

CHOICE

From Page 10

observational studies of calorie displays are inconclusive. One study found that they had no effect, but another found a 6 percent decrease in calories purchased. The federal rule added a requirement that chain restaurants also post a suggested total daily caloric intake, perhaps on the assumption that telling consumers that a Big Mac has 550 calories will mean more when framed by the advice that an adult should eat about 2,000 calories a day. But a recent study undermined this intuition too: Benchmarks did not reduce purchased calories, and may have ironically promoted consumption of higher-calorie items.

Even if testing shows a nudge to be effective, it will rarely if ever benefit everyone who is subject to it. (In some cases, such as making posthumous organ donation the default, nudges do not directly benefit any nudgee, although there may be other reasons to support such proposals.) Although the Obama administration claims that its nudges will "help people to achieve their goals," no government can know and simultaneously promote the many goals of a diverse citizenry. Nor do all people make irrational choices in the absence of nudges; some targets of a nudge will already have made choices that reflect their considered preferences.

But all this is true of every act of lawmaking. Under the Supreme Court's expansive commerce clause jurisprudence, the regulators who would nudge us already can, in most cases, shove us instead. And shoves, unlike nudges, prevent people from making choices that differ from the government's.

When some choice has to be the default—everyone must either save for retirement or not—nudges sensibly make it easier for people to choose what most of them prefer (or what is expected to yield the greatest social benefits), while allowing the minority to make a different choice with minimal effort.

Those who fear that nudging will put us on a slippery slope to an Orwellian nanny state ought to recognize that we are already on that slope. Nudges offer an offramp to a more sure-footed terrain that people across the political spectrum should prefer.

Michelle N. Meyer is a professor of bioethics, law and policy at Union Graduate College. Christopher Chabris is a psychology professor at Union College and the coauthor of The Invisible Gorilla: How Our Intuitions Deceive Us. *They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Something to think about

This is an open letter to any and all interested people in the CNMI. I wanted to share with you what has been bothering me ever since I got involved in finding an equitable way to help everyone in the CNMI better understand the effect and the impact of Article 12 if it is not repealed.

I have heard and seen a number of land transactions taking place here in the CNMI where some of the landowners wanted to sell their land but are unable to do so because Article 12 prevents them from doing so. Instead, therefore, they negotiated for a maximum of 55-year lease period. The lease rent payment was paid to the landowner at the time of initial consummation of the transaction. The lessee does not have to pay any more rent since 100 percent of the rent was paid up front. There is nothing wrong with such a land transaction since the lessor was paid in full at the initial stage and the lessee may now develop the "leased" land. There is no violation of law that I am aware of.

Here is an ambiguous "hooker." What if the Legislature suddenly decides to enact a real estate tax law on all privately owned land? It would seem logical that the landowner would be obligated to pay the tax since he or she is still the fee simple owner of the land.

Here is a "scenario or example" that should concern every landowner. For example, say I leased/sold my land 20 years ago to a non-NMD for $100,000 and received the full amount up front. The lessee developed the land for business and spent 10 times the amount of the lease or $1 million. Let us say, for example, in the year 2015 the Legislature enacts a real estate tax wherein every landowner will be required to pay the tax of, say, 1 percent of the appraised value of the land and improvement. Who is going to be liable for the real estate tax?

Something to think about…

David M. Sablan Sr.
Papago, Saipan

Invidious discrimination

I was amazed by Vice Speaker Dela Cruz's legal wisdom when he asked whether the CNMI is being racist for excluding non-NMD adopted children from owning or inheriting land in the CNMI.

The U.S. Constitution requires that any discrimination based on race necessitates strict judicial scrutiny and may be upheld only if there is a showing of a compelling state interest. The argument of fairness is not a compelling state interest and does not in itself pass constitutional muster.

Nor does the argument that there is a possibility of sham adoptions provide a rational basis. The vice speaker clearly articulated it by saying that there are also genuine relationships, including having 100 percent NMD's adopting children, especially those of their non-NMD spouses.

The initiative, which the Legislature has just passed, clearly weakens the ability of those who want Article 12 to be retained. They not only will have to defend the invidious discrimination against adopted children, who ought to be treated equally with their NMD siblings, but they will also be forced by the initiative to defend a challenge on the basis that the Covenant only allows the discrimination against non-NMD's for a limited period of 25 years, which has already expired. They will also have to consider the possibility that one who can prove that he got a transfusion of blood donated by an NMD person may qualify as an NMD based on the language of the initiative.

Reynaldo O. Yana
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Let the homework begin

Never underestimate the heart of a top contender who has tasted already the experiences of consecutive defeats.

When Abraham Lincoln first ran for a series of public offices at the state level, he lost consecutive times but he never gave up. When he made his last attempt and ran for the presidency, he won and became a legendary president in the history of the United States.

Here in the CNMI, we all ought to be looking a head to next year's gubernatorial election whether we could identify one candidate who resembles the election ordeals of President Lincoln.

Let the homework begins for brainstormings, discussions, debates, and deliberations on the picnic table. Unload the beers and chug them down your throat for your waiting brain to get smart and brainstorming at the end of the day.

During brainstorming, don't be stormy with one another. Respect each other in the form of good communication. And most important, drink the beer, don't let the beer drink you.

Martin M. Sakisat
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲83° ▼75°	▲85° ▼74°	▲86° ▼76°	▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼75°

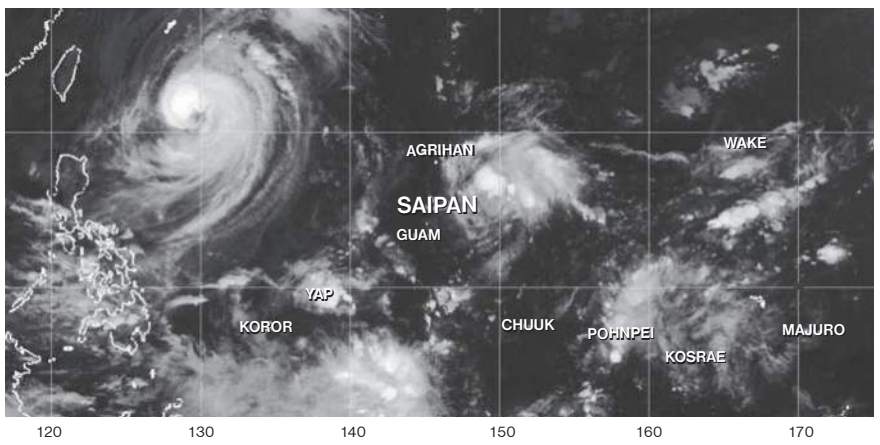
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲76	▼56
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲84	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
London	Showers	▲65	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼63
Osaka	Cloudy	▲79	▼68
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Pusan	Windy	▲75	▼67
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼64
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲69	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The circulation centered east-northeast of Saipan near 16N150E is now the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring northeast of Saipan within 110 miles of a line from 15N149E to 18N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present farther northeast within 80 miles of a line from 23N148E to 17N156E. Narrow bands of showers and a few thunderstorms are passing through the Marianas between 11N and 18N from 142E to 147E. For more information on the tropical cyclone formation alert, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. Tropical Storm Fitow (22W) is centered 935 miles northwest of Yap at 20N130E moving north-northwest at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found well north-northwest of Koror and Yap or west of a line from 25N132E to 21N134E to 17N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present farther east within 120 miles of a line from 25N136E to 19N141E to 11N141E. For more information on Tropical Storm Fitow, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW. A weak circulation is centered south-southwest of Chuuk near 3N150E. A surface trough extends northward from the circulation to the disturbance centered near 16N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located west of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 14N151E to 6N145E. A broad area of low-level convergence west of the circulation is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 6N130E to 5N146E. A surface trough extends northeastward across the Marshall Islands from near 5N168E to 13N177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen across Pohnpei and Kosrae to west of Majuro within 240 miles of a line from 11N158E to 5N169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:07 AM	5:24 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:55 AM	6:54 PM
Monday	7:51 AM	7:43 PM
Tuesday	8:50 AM	8:36 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 3, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Former CHC staff in embezzlement case enters plea deal

Melvin G. Ada, a former employee of the Commonwealth Health Center who, along with his wife, is facing 59 charges of allegedly misappropriating and diverting CNMI Treasury checks made payable to a medical supplier totaling over $1.7 million, has signed a plea deal with the U.S. government.

In its wake, assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to set aside Ada's scheduled jury trial and set a change of plea hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the change of plea hearing for Friday, Oct. 11.

As of yesterday, the plea agreement was still sealed.

Ada's wife, Leyda I. Ada, is set to appear in court today at 1:30pm for pre-trial and motion hearing. She is also facing the same charges.

The Ada couple were each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit theft or embezzlement; 19 counts of theft or embezzlement; one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud; nine counts of health care fraud; one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering; and 28 counts of money laundering.

Mark Hanson and Colin Thompson are the court-appointed counsels for Leyda and Melvin Ada, respectively.

Melvin Ada was previously assigned as a medical supply specialist at CHC. Leyda used to be a sales representative for Midwest Medical Supply Co. Inc., a Missouri-based company that had supplied dialysis consumables and equipment to CHC. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COTA resumes full operations

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority announced yesterday that it has resumed full operations after a half-day of furlough.

COTA partially closed its doors Wednesday morning, Oct. 2, at 11am in response to the federal government shutdown. Their Call-a-Ride program, however, continued to serve the community without any interruptions.

"We recognize the importance of being responsible leaders as well as the value of commitment to our riders," said Tomas J. Camacho, special assistant to the governor for public transportation.

For more information, contact Vince Merfalen, COTA's Mobility Management and Transit Coordinator, at (670) 664-2276.

COTA's mission is to provide reliable, safe, comfortable public transportation service Commonwealth-wide that is cost-effective, reduces energy consumption and contributes to the cultural and economic betterment of the residents of the CNMI. For additional information visit its website at www.COTA.gov.mp. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Olopai featured on Your Humanities Half-Hour

Lino M. Olopai will be the featured guest on this Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program.

Olopai, born on Saipan in 1940, will recount his recollection of post-war life in Chalan Kanoa Village, including childhood games, communal living, and village meetings in the Carolinian portion of the village.

This is the first of four radio programs in October focusing on village histories. The other villages to be featured in upcoming shows this month include Garapan, Tanapag, and San Roque.

This series is one of several programs sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in October to mark CNMI Humanities Month.

Your Humanities Half-Hour, hosted by Catherine R. Perry, airs each Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 2:30 on Power 99.

It features interviews with scholars, researchers, teachers, and community leaders on a wide range of humanities topics of interest to the community. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***

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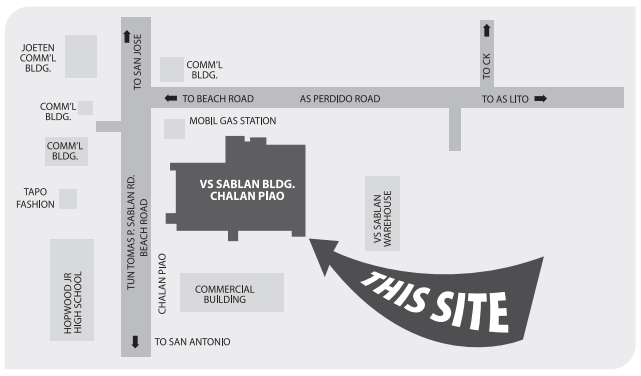

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Siberia Restaurant unveils revamped menu

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After a three-month feeling-out period, Siberia Restaurant held its long-awaited grand opening last Tuesday night by treating over 40 hotel and tour agency executives to a sumptuous four-course dinner.

Appetizer was holodets, beef tongue with horseradish, and red caviar on bread. For the uninitiated, holodets is cold meat jelly.

Not one but two types of salad were also served—Vinigrette and Olivie. The former is a vegetarian salad with beets, the latter a potato salad with sliced ham and mixed boiled vegetables.

The main course included meat dumplings, Vareneki (ravioli with mashed potato cabbage), Kasha Boyarskaya (buckwheat with mushrooms and ham), Golubtsy (cabbage rolls stuffed with meat), and Chicken Kiev (chicken cutlet).

Dessert was Piriozhki, which is similar to a turnover with apple, potato, and cabbage filling, and Russian-style pancakes called Blini with honey and jam.

All throughout the dining experience, Siberia Restaurant's waitstaff served refills of iced tea and Berry Morse, a non-alcoholic drink also called honey beer.

As if the $55 per plate meal wasn't enough, Siberia also pulled out all the stops by flying in Russian cultural performer Anna Neverdovskaia from Vladivostok to host the event.

MARK RABAGO
Siberia Restaurant treated over 40 hotel and tour agency executives to a sumptuous four-course meal during its long-awaited grand opening last Tuesday.

The statuesque Neverdovskaia enchanted everyone and even cajoled a few to take part in unique parlor games, which included Russian roulette. However, instead of revolvers, participants were given eggs, with one supposedly raw.

As an added treat, Siberia Restaurant also served black caviar, which is a $99 item on the menu.

Siberia Restaurant operations manager Kayoko "Kay" Irinaka said the grand opening also gave the restaurant an opportunity to introduce its revamped menu, which gives locals and tourists alike a sample of the restaurant's offerings by lumping together dishes that complement each other.

Set A, for instance, pairs Vinaigrette Salad with Siberia Borsch and Meat Pelmini. Set B includes layered beets and herring salad, which is called Shuba, Ukha-fish soup, and Golubtsy. Olivie, Solyanka soup, and Beef Stroganoff with mashed potato make up Set C.

Irinaka said the new menu sets range in price from $20 to $28.

She said Emerald City LLC, which owns Siberia Restaurant and sister companies Jazz & Café Bar and Gift Shop, opened the Russian restaurant because the ever-increasing number of Russian tourists on Saipan.

Aside from an authentic dining experience, Irinaka said the restaurant was also built to mimic a Russian log cabin, complete with a traditional fireplace and animal skins hanging on the walls.

Siberia Restaurant is located on the second floor of the ABC Building across DFS Galleria, along Beach Road. It comfortably seats up to 50 guests and is open from 10am to 11pm daily. For reservations, call 233-7733.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2013-005

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: Friday, October 25, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane **/s/ Herman S. Sablan**
Chairwoman of the Board **Director, Procurement & Supply**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
USED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT
CPA-PAN-004-13

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority will sell at Public Auction, October 24th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. used vehicles and equipment.

The used vehicles and equipment may be inspected at the Saipan International Airport by contacting Mr. Edward B. Mendiola or Juan C. Tudela at telephone numbers 237-6500/6505.

The schedule of vehicles and equipment may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport beginning September 27, 2013.

The auction shall be made individually. Minimum bids are set for some of the vehicles.

All vehicles and equipment are sold "As Is" and "Where Is" and without Warranty. The successful bidder is required to pay 20% down payment at CPA Accounting Office on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable within 5 calendar days from auction closing date. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment shall be in cash, cashier's check, or money order payable to CPA.

CPA assumes no responsibility for any costs incurred by bidder's in their preparation of the bids.

Inquiries may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela, at telephone number 237-6563.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Request for Qualifications
Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian Harbor
RFQ13-GOV-179

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office ("Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian Harbor, located at San Jose Village on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Prior to an award of a design contract, the firm or company must have obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The project package and scope of work will be available Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled on Monday, October 7, 2013, 9:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding this Request for Qualifications must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office or via email to balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com or via facsimile to (670) 664-2408 no later than September 27, 2013, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposals shall not exceed 25 pages. Note, a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot also submit as a sub consultant on another proposal. However, sub consultants maybe included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualification and experience on similar projects	25%
2.	Project Approach	5%
3.	Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required period	25%
4.	Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	25%
5.	Fee Proposal	0%

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian is 150 calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ13-GOV-179 A&E Design Services for Assessment of the Tinian Harbor. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 18, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 18, 2013 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than October 18, 2013 and must be received no later than October 29, 2013. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest-ranking qualified firm, then additional firms maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301. All responses to this RFQ shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Affordable Care Act town hall meetings to be held

The CNMI Department of Commerce's Consumer Assistance Program will hold three town hall meetings on the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, during the month of October throughout the CNMI. The goal of these meetings is to inform the public of the provisions of the healthcare reform, how the ACA applies to the CNMI, and the role of the CAP.

A town hall meeting is scheduled on Tinian for Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013. The meeting will be from 7pm to 8:30pm at Natibu Park.

On Rota, a meeting will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

The American Memorial Park Theater is the venue for the Saipan meeting on Friday evening, Oct. 25, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

Questions and comments will be taken at each meeting after the informative presentation portion. All of these events are open to consumers, the general public, and press.

Additionally, the CAP will hold meetings with government officials and employees during visits to Tinian and Rota as the CAP office is located on Saipan.

Created earlier this year with federal grant funds, the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program is charged with assisting health care consumers in the CNMI by informing consumers of their rights, assisting consumers to file complaints and appeals and advocating for the consumer in public policy matters. The Consumer Assistance Program's mission is to educate, assist and protect the CNMI health care consumer.

Learn more about the Affordable Care Act in the CNMI at cnmicap.wordpress.com or email questions to advocacy officer Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu at advocacyoffice@commerce.gov.mp. ***(Office of the Governor)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rhythm 'N Harmony concert this weekend

The Marianas High School's award winning and nationally recognized glee club, Rhythm 'N Harmony, will be presenting its first concert of the 2013-13 season this weekend. Come and enjoy selections from their musical repertoire at the Marianas High School's Dolphin Theater this Friday, Oct. 4, at 7pm or on Saturday, Oct. 5, at either 4pm or 7pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door: $3 for students or $5 for adults. ***(PR)***

3 Kagman schools to hold joint PTSA meeting today

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community for all three Kagman schools—Kagman Elementary School, Chacha Middle School, and Kagman High School—that there will be a PTSA meeting on Oct. 4, 2013, from 6pm to 7pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. Please remember that we need a quorum of 50 parents to hold the meeting. Call the school at 237-3965 or 237-3967 if you have any question or concerns. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm (Monday to Friday). ***(PR)***

Free loan packaging workshop

The CNMI Small Business Development Center presents a free workshop, "SSBCI Loan Packaging," on Oct. 4, 2013, 10am-12pm, at the Saipan Chamber Of Commerce, 2nd floor. Online registration is available at pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one business day before workshop. Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability. Call (670) 664-3018 for pre-registration. ***(PR)***

OCTOBER 5–19, 2013
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For more info please call 286-0098 or 285-0782

The U.S. Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with the continuation of military readiness training and testing activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area. The MITT EIS/OEIS is the reevaluation and reauthorization of training and testing activities reviewed in the Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS/OEIS, which the Navy completed with community input in 2010.

The Navy requests your input!

The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public review and comment from Sept. 13, 2013, to Nov. 12, 2013.

Submit Written Comments To:
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Submit comments online at www.MITT-EIS.com.

All comments must be postmarked or received online by Nov. 12, 2013, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.

OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETINGS
5 to 8 p.m.
Arrive anytime during the open house.

Guam
Monday, Oct. 7, 2013
University of Guam, Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building, Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Saipan
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2013
Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

Tinian
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013
Tinian High School, Cafeteria
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Rota
Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013
Sinapalo Elementary School, Cafeteria
Sinapalo I
Rota, MP 96951

Visit the following public libraries or www.MITT-EIS.com to view the document: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library or the Rota Public Library.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW13-IFB-007

Governor Eloy S. Inos, and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the ***Repair and Renovation of Rota Liason Facility***, Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 20, 2013 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a ***Pre-bid Conference*** for this project on October 01, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, ***Rota Liason Facility, Navy Hill,*** Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 2:30 p.m. local time on October 07, 2013 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW13-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 10, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 10, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 10, 2013, and must be received no later than October 17, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, October 21, 2013, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, on October 15, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, no cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the ***Nothern Marianas Island Administrative Code Section 70.30.3-245.*** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

erformance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Assistant Coordinator, Motheread Literacy Program
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is seeking an independent contractor to serve as assistant coordinator for the Motheread Literacy Program.

Main responsibilities include organizing, implementing and evaluating Motheread and Teacheread program cycles under the supervision of the Motheread Coordinator.

To be considered, the applicant should be a certified Motheread Parent-Trainer, have reliable transportation, and be available to work a flexible schedule of roughly 40 hours per week, including some evenings and weekends. A bachelor's degree in education or related field is desirable.

The monthly fee range for these services is $1,500 to $1,800 depending on qualifications and experience.

Applicants are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council no later than 4:30 pm on Wednesday, 9 October 2013.

A detailed listing of responsibilities for this position is available at the Council office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, or on its website www.nmihumanities.org.

Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this opportunity.

Blood brothers: Guam brothers serve in same platoon

By SGT EDDIE SIGUENZA
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CAMP SPANN, Afghanistan—These days, the heavy thing draped over Sgt. Manolito (Manny) Molinos' shoulders is body armor. It's the same with younger brother, Spc. Mark Molinos. The only difference is that he attaches a radio to it.

There was a time when the brothers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, carried the hopes of Guam on their shoulders. In some ways, they still do, but just in a far different role.

It's been more than a decade since Manny, Mark, and older brother Edgar were mainstays of the Guam Weightlifting Federation. They're one of a rare threesome of brothers to represent Guam in an international sport, having done so in the 1999 South Pacific Games hosted by Guam. A pair of brothers? All too common for Guam, but a trio of siblings involved in one sport doesn't happen often.

"It's pretty much Edgar who got us into this," said Mark from his temporary Afghanistan home. "We saw he was doing pretty well in weightlifting. He got us into it."

Before talking about Mark and Manny and their current Operation Enduring Freedom mission, Edgar and his influence has to be explained. In the 1990s he was Guam's golden child of weightlifting, representing the island at the 1992 Summer Olympics and successfully medaling at the 1991 Papua New Guinea and 1995 Tahiti SPGs. Then, Edgar led his brothers into the '99 Games. Before that, he led Manny into the 1994 and '98 Micronesian Games.

Edgar, however, didn't lead his brothers into the military. They did that on their own, and now Mark and Manny are part of another successful "international" Guam team.

"Weightlifting and the military are totally different worlds," said Manny, when asked if there are similarities between what he used to do and what he does now. "You compete against athletes from other nations in the sport. But out here, on deployment, you're competing against life."

Manny, a team leader and electronics warfare noncommissioned officer, is on his third OEF tour and fourth mission overall. This is Mark's first OEF mission. Task Force Guam has about 30 family pairs on this mission, but the Molinos brothers are one of the few sibling pairs in the same unit. Even more remarkable, they are not only in the same unit; they are in the same platoon.

Mark

Manolito

"The advantage of that is the two brothers have themselves to fall back on when they go through tough times. That definitely gives them strength," said 1st Lt. Peter Guerrero, Alpha Company commander. "But it's also a double-edged sword. If something happens, you don't just take out one from the company, you take out two."

Mark and Manny realize that. When they first arrived in country, they avoided being on the same mission. If Mark goes out, Manny stays on the compound and vice versa. Yet unit manpower and responsibilities have changed recently. Now they both roll on the same mission, but just in different vehicles.

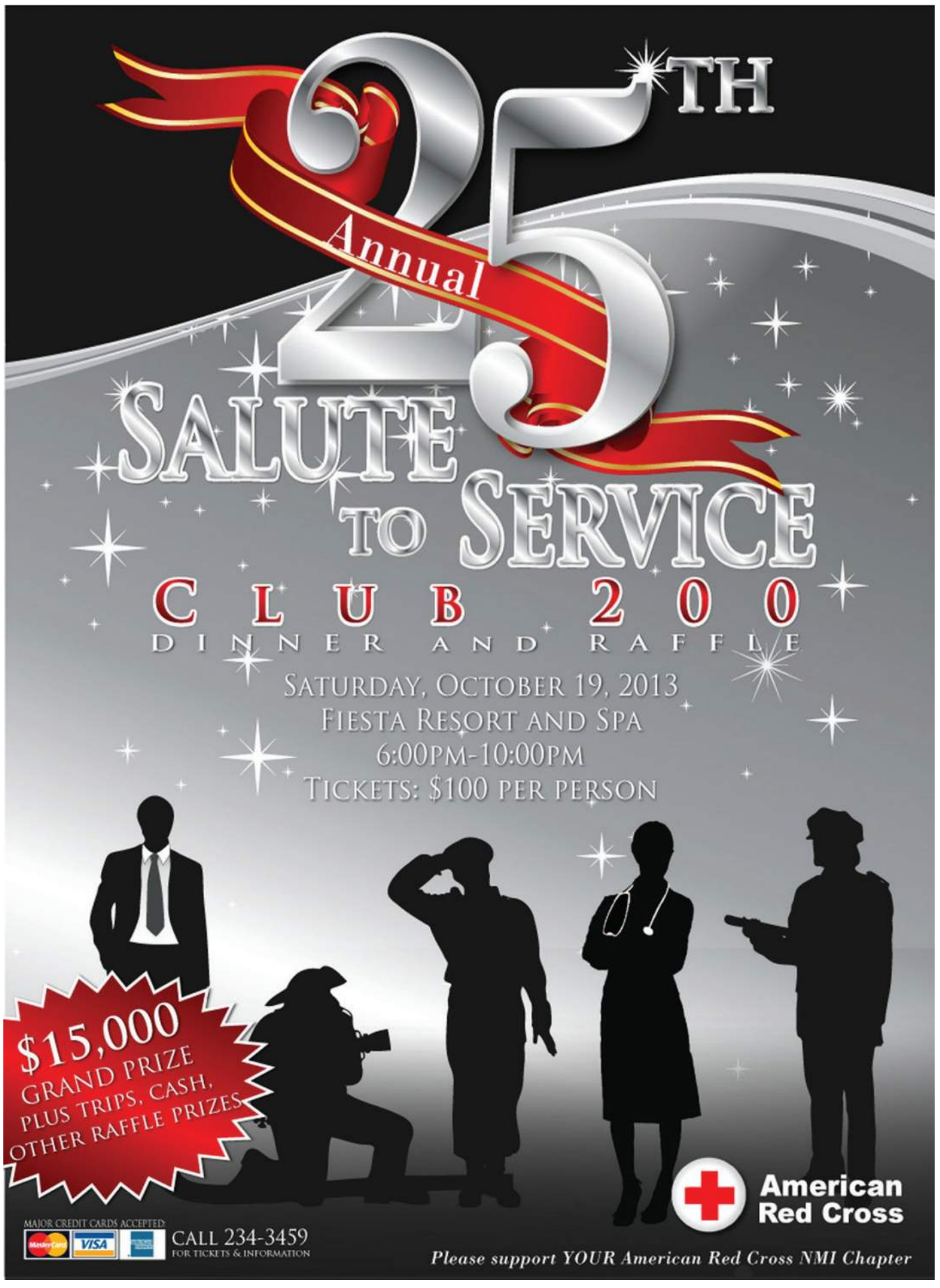
"It makes it easier knowing I have family here, actual blood," Mark said. "In fact we've gotten a lot closer than we've ever been. It's a little hard for our parents to know we're both here at the same place, but having blood here makes it a lot easier."

"Our families know the dangers of being on the same unit, but they also understand the positives," Manny explained. "There's always going to be that older-brother feeling. I always want to check how he's doing. Our families see the positives to this, but they also know it's dangerous."

Mark, 30, is a radio operator. He's the youngest of five siblings. Manny, 37, is next youngest but has already served 11 years in the Guam Guard.

In the 1990s, the Molinos name was synonymous with Guam weightlifting. They brought more competitive success to Guam, with only the Fejerans (siblings Pete and Melissa) rivaling them. But the Molinos brothers are Guam's last weightlifting medalists in any international competition. Manny's 1994 Oceania/South Pacific Championships weightlifting title is still remembered, as well as Manny and Edgar's 1995 SPG medals.

After the Molinos brothers left the sport, Guam's weightlifting program hasn't been the same. Guam hasn't won an SPG weightlifting medal in the 2003, 2007, and 2011 SPGs. Guam didn't even send a weightlifting team to the 2005 or 2011 SPGs.



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CNMI Government

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Submission/Opening Date: October 29, 2013 Time: 10:00 A.M.

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The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to wave any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Pedro A. Tenorio
Secretary of DPL

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Armando A. Camposano Petitioner,	)	**FCD – DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0437**
Vs.	)	
Elizabeth Aldunar-Camposano Respondent,	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 714 PPP Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk o this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND Plaintiff, v. **VICENTE K. BASA aka VINCENT K. BASA,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 13-0010** **NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to the Entry of Default and Default Judgment Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 11, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interest of Defendant in and to the following real property:

Lot No. 001 G 31, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded on March 18, 1986 as Document No. 86-0513 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendant or a representative), and will be held on **Wednesday, October 16, 2013,** at the hour of **1:30 p.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Building, Garapan, CNMI.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:15 p.m.

2. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 11th day of September, 2013.

/s/ Micheline W. Brel
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
Tel: (670) 235-8060
Fax: (670) 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

NMI Humanities Council eyes other venue for lecture series

The closure of the American Memorial Park has forced the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to look for another venue for a series of lectures that was supposed to be held at the AMP Visitors Center beginning next week.

Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell said if the U.S. government shutdown that necessitated the closure of the park persists to next week, they would have to move the venue to the Northern Marianas College.

"We are lining up alternate venues for the lecture series, given that AMP is closed down. We've lined up Room D-1 at NMC but are hoping that the shutdown will end so we can hold the series at AMP as planned."

The first installment of the Community Lecture Series is set for Tuesday, Oct. 8, with NMC instructor Guadalupe Borja-Robinson presenting "Reflections on Saipan's Transition from WWII to Today."

The second lecture series is set the following Tuesday, Oct. 15, with former congressman William Torres, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, and architect Herman B. Camacho presenting "Saipan and Northern Islands Leadership Kiosku Project."

It then concludes with local historian Don Farrell's presentation, "Marianas Reunification Efforts," on Oct. 22.

All three lectures, which start at 6pm and are free of charge, were also presented during the 2nd Marianas History Conference in Guam in August.

Russell said the Humanities Council has so far not been affected by the federal government shutdown, "at least for now."

However, if the shutdown continues, he said the council could be in dire straits since the bulk of its funding comes from a federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"We have funding in hand to continue to operate our administration and programs [but] if the shutdown continues for a lengthy time, say a couple of months, we would run into problems, as our drawdown requests would not be processed due to federal staffing furloughs. Then there would be direct impacts to our operations."

Russell is also worried that the National Endowment for the Humanities may be earmarked a smaller budget in fiscal year 2014.

"We would be directly impacted if there is a major reduction to NEH funding. We don't know yet what will happen but it is likely that funding levels to agencies such as NEH will be cut." ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Business

US businesses worry about a prolonged shutdown

NEW YORK (AP)—As the government's partial shutdown enters a second day, most companies across the country are doing business as usual. Yet concern is rising that a prolonged shutdown would cause some work at private companies to dry up and consumers to lose faith in the U.S. economy.

Many of the 800,000 government workers without paychecks would no longer shop at malls, buy cars or splurge on dinner out.

"They're not getting a paycheck, they're probably going to be cutting corners immediately in all areas, and dining out will probably be one of those," said Don Davey, who owns 20 Firehouse Subs franchises in Florida and Wisconsin.

If sales drop, Davey said he'll have to reduce the hours his 250 staffers work.

"Some of our employees could be making less money as soon as next week," he said.

For each week the government remains shut, the U.S. economy would lose 0.15 percent of annualized growth, David Stockton, a former research director at the Federal Reserve who is now at the Peterson Institute, estimates.

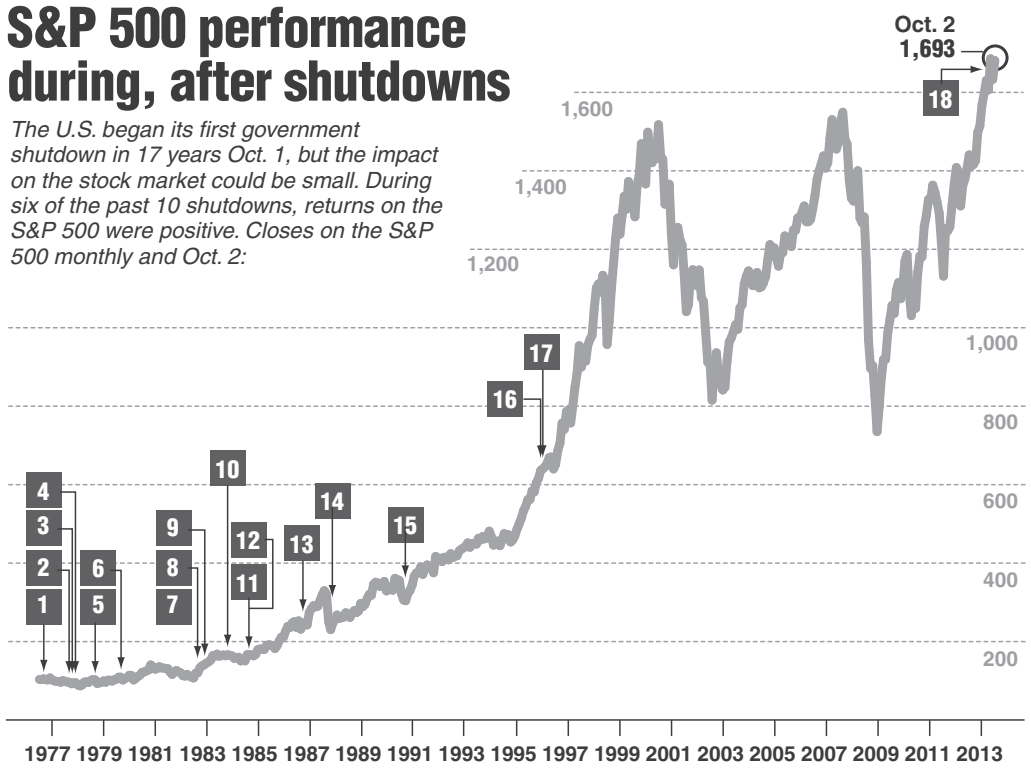
Consultants on some government projects have stopped flying and staying at hotels. And vacationers looking to spend money at national parks are being forced to re-route their itineraries.

For some executives, there is the frustrating sense that the federal government has become a sad joke.

"Here we go again," said JetBlue Airways CEO Dave Barger. "Business customers, leisure customers—people want predictability. It's really frustrating."

S&P 500 performance during, after shutdowns

The U.S. began its first government shutdown in 17 years Oct. 1, but the impact on the stock market could be small. During six of the past 10 shutdowns, returns on the S&P 500 were positive. Closes on the S&P 500 monthly and Oct. 2:



	Start/end date	Number of trading days	Return during shutdown	Return 60 days after shutdown
1	Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 1976	10	-3.4%	3.0%
2	Sept. 30-Oct. 13, 1977	12	-3.2	0.2
3	Oct. 31-Nov. 9, 1977	8	0.7	-1.5
4	Nov. 30-Dec. 9, 1977	8	-1.2	-3.5
5	Sept. 30-Oct. 18, 1978	17	-2.0	-5.1
6	Sept. 30-Oct. 12, 1979	11	-4.4	2.9
7	Nov. 20-23, 1981	2	-0.1	-5.1
8	Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1982	1	1.3	13.7
9	Dec. 17-21, 1982	3	0.8	6.8
10	Nov. 10-14, 1983	3	1.3	0.3
11	Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 1984	2	-2.2	0.7
12	Oct. 3-5, 1984	1	0.1	0.4
13	Oct. 16-18, 1986	2	-0.3	3.7
14	Dec. 18-20, 1987	1	0.0	3.5
15	Oct. 5-9, 1990	3	-2.1	7.4
16	Nov. 13-19, 1995	5	1.3	1.4
17	Dec. 15, 1995-Jan. 6, 1996	21	0.1	5.7
18	Sept. 30-present	-		

Source: JPMorgan, Bloomberg, Congressional Research Service
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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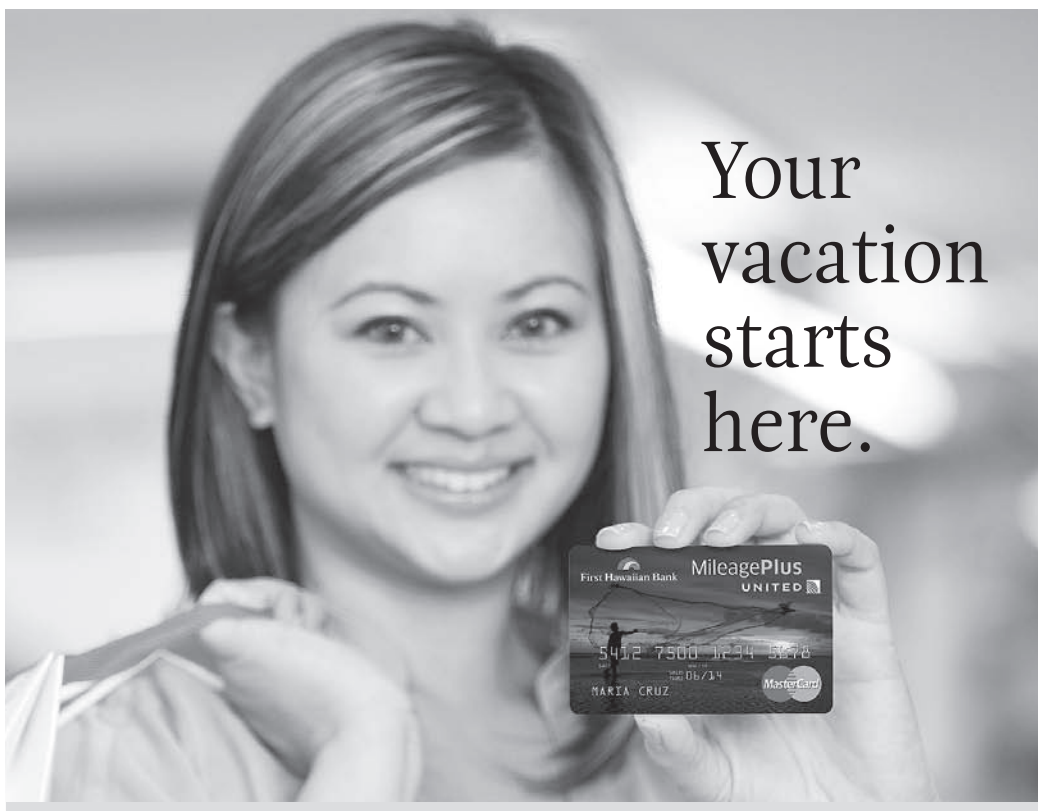

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Online delays signal strong demand for health care

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Overloaded websites and jammed phone lines frustrated consumers for a second day as they tried to sign up for health insurance under the nation's historic health care overhaul.

That was putting pressure on the federal government and the states that are running their own insurance exchanges to fix the problems amid strong demand for the private insurance plans.

"I think I'm through with Hawaii Health Connector," said Richard Gamberg, 61, of Honolulu, after tweeting messages to officials and complaining to state lawmakers on Wednesday. "They've got ads in the newspaper, they've got ads on the TV—it just flabbergasts me."

He was among the would-be customers in Hawaii who were still unable to buy insurance policies online Wednesday, forcing them to turn directly to insurance companies to examine their options. In Oregon, officials said a faulty online calculator would not be fixed until late October.

The delays that continued Wednesday offered one good sign for President Barack Obama and supporters of his signature domestic policy achievement, demonstrating what appeared to be exceptionally high interest in the new system. But the problems also could dampen enthusiasm for the law as Republicans use it as a rallying cry to keep most of the federal government closed.

Nation

White House meeting yields no progress on shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama brought congressional leaders to the White House on Wednesday for the first time since a partial government shutdown began, but there was no sign of progress toward ending an impasse that has idled 800,000 federal workers and curbed services around the country.

Obama "refuses to negotiate," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio., told reporters after private talks that lasted more than an hour. "All we're asking for here is a discussion and fairness for the American people under Obamacare."

But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said moments later, "We're locked in tight on Obamacare" and neither the president nor Democrats will accept changes in the nation's 3-year-old health care law as the price for spending legislation needed to end the two-day partial shutdown.

The Capital is mirrored in the Capital Reflecting Pool on Capitol Hill in Washington early Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. AP

With the nation's ability to borrow money soon to lapse, Republicans and Democrats alike said the shutdown could last for two weeks or more, and soon oblige a divided government to grapple with both economy-threatening issues at the same time.

The White House said in a statement after the meeting that Obama had made it clear "he is not going to negotiate over the need for Congress to act to reopen the government or to raise the debt limit to pay the bills Congress has already incurred."

It added, "The president remains hopeful that common sense will prevail."

The high-level bickering at microphones set up outside the White House reflected the day's proceedings in the Capitol.

The Republican-controlled House approved legislation to reopen the nation's parks and the National Institutes of Health, even though many Democrats criticized them as part of a piecemeal approach that fell far short of what was needed. The bills face dim prospects in the Senate, and the White House threatened to veto both in the unlikely event they make it to Obama's desk.

"What we're trying to do is to get the government open as quickly as possible," said the House majority leader, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia. "And all that it would take is us realizing we have a lot in agreement."

Earlier, an attempt by Democrats to force shutdown-ending legislation to the House floor failed on a 227-197 vote, with all Republicans in opposition. That left intact the tea party-driven strategy of demanding changes to the nation's health care overhaul as the price for essential federal financing, despite grumbling from Republican moderates.

The stock market ended lower as Wall Street CEOs, Europe's central banker and traders pressed for a solution before serious damage is done to the economy. Chief executives from the nation's biggest financial firms met Obama for more than an hour Wednesday, some of them plainly frustrated with the tactics at play in Congress and with the potential showdown coming over the debt limit.

"You can re-litigate these policy issues in a political forum, but we shouldn't use threats of causing the U.S. to fail on its obligations to repay its debt as a cudgel," Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, said after the meeting.

Democrats were scathing in their criticism.

"The American people would get better government out of Monkey Island at the local zoo than we're giving them today," said Rep. John Dingell of Michigan.

The Republican National Committee announced it would pay for personnel needed to reopen the World War II Memorial, a draw for aging veterans from around the country that is among the sites shuttered. In a statement, party chairman Reince Priebus challenged Democrats "to join with us in keeping this memorial open."

Democrats labeled that a stunt. "We've already been working on a plan to open the Memorial—and the entire government—after the GOP caused them to close," said party spokesman Mo Elleithee. "It's called a clean" spending bill.

As it turned out, more than 125 World War II veterans from Mississippi and Iowa who were initially kept out of the memorial Tuesday were escorted to the site with the help of members of Congress. Officials made further arrangements to allow veterans groups into the memorial during the shutdown.

A sampling of federal agencies showed how unevenly the shutdown was felt across the government.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Housing and Urban Development listed only six percent of their employees as essential, and therefore permitted to work during the impasse. James R. Clapper, director of national intelligence, said about 70 percent of civilian employees in agencies under his control had been sent home.

By contrast, about 86 percent of employees of the Department of Homeland Security remained on the job, and 95 percent at the Veterans Affairs Department.

One furloughed employee, meteorologist Amy Fritz, said, "I want to get back to work." At a news conference arranged by congressional Democrats, the 38-year-old National Weather Service employee said she has more than $100,000 in student loan debt and is looking at ways to cut her budget.

In an interview with CNBC before meeting with lawmakers, Obama said he would not negotiate with Republicans until the government is reopened and Congress votes to raise the debt limit.

"If we get in the habit where a few folks, an extremist wing of one party, whether it's Democrat or Republican, are allowed to extort concessions based on a threat (to) undermine the full faith and credit of the United States, then any president who comes after me, not just me, will find themselves unable to govern effectively," he said.

"The White House said Obama would have to truncate a long-planned trip to Asia, calling off the final two stops in Malaysia and the Philippines.

The shutdown also intruded into the race for governor of Virginia.

Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat, said he supported legislation to guarantee retroactive pay for furloughed federal employees. The Republican contender, Ken Cuccinelli, called on members of Congress to decline their pay as long as the shutdown lasts.

Furloughed workers

U.S. federal government workers furloughed as a result of the shutdown, by federal agency, as of Oct. 1:

Agency	Furloughs
Defense*	400,000
Treasury	90,000
Interior	58,765
HHS	40,512
Commerce	40,234
Homeland Security	31,295
Transportation	18,481
Justice	18,186
NASA	17,701
EPA	15,181
Veterans Affairs	14,224
Labor	13,350
Energy	8,471
HUD	8,360
FDA	6,620
Education	3,983
SEC	3,897
Small Business	2,187
Agriculture	Unknown
State	Unknown

*Civilian employees only; military personnel are not subject to furlough

Source: Washington Post
Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2013 MCT

ACROSS THE NATION

Authorities: 8 killed in church bus crash in Tenn.

DANDRIDGE, Tenn. (AP)—A bus taking a church group home to North Carolina blew a tire, veered across a highway median and crashed into a sport utility vehicle and tractor-trailer Wednesday in a fiery wreck that killed eight people, authorities said. Fourteen other people were hurt in the accident in northeastern Tennessee, including eight who were in critical condition. The bus was carrying members of the Front Street Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C., which is about 140 miles east of the crash site. The group of seniors, known as Young at Heart, had been to the 17th annual Fall Jubilee in Gatlinburg, Tenn., an event featuring gospel singers and speakers.

Marathon suspect wants prison restrictions lifted

BOSTON (AP)—Lawyers for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev asked a judge Wednesday to lift restrictions placed on him in prison, arguing that the conditions are overly harsh, have left him nearly totally isolated and are impairing their ability to defend him. Tsarnaev's lawyers said in a motion filed in court that he has been confined to his cell except for visits from them and has "very limited access" to a small outdoor enclosure. Tsarnaev, 20, is accused of building and planting bombs near the finish line of the April 15 marathon, killing three people and injuring more than 260. Authorities say he and his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, ethnic Chechens from Russia who emigrated to the United States as children, planned and carried out the attack to retaliate against the U.S. for its involvement in Muslim countries.

Pa. appeals court: No new trial for Jerry Sandusky

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky should not get a new trial after being convicted of sexually abusing 10 boys, a state appeals court ruled Wednesday. The unanimous decision by a three-judge Superior Court panel came barely two weeks after they heard oral arguments by Sandusky's lawyer and a state prosecutor. Defense lawyer Norris Gelman said he planned to ask the state Supreme Court to review the case.

NSA chief admits testing US cellphone tracking

WASHINGTON (AP)—National Security Agency chief Gen. Keith Alexander revealed Wednesday that his spy agency once tested whether it could track Americans' cellphone locations, in addition to its practice of sweeping broad information about calls made. Alexander and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testified at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on proposed reforms to the NSA's surveillance of phone and internet usage around the world, exposed in June by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden. But neither spy chief discussed proposed reforms; instead they were questioned about new potential abuses that have come to light since then.

Asia

Myanmar Muslims hide amid deadly sectarian clashes

THANDWE, Myanmar (AP)—Terrified Muslim families hid in forests in western Myanmar on Wednesday, one day after fleeing a new round of deadly sectarian violence that erupted even as the president toured the divided region.

Tuesday's unrest near the coastal town of Thandwe saw Buddhist mobs kill a 94-year-old woman and four other Muslims and burn dozens of homes.

The violnce, underscored the government's persistent failure to stop the sectarian violence from spreading sinceit first erupted last year, costing hundreds of people their lives and many thousands their homes.

Some rights groups accuse the government of tolerating, or even abetting, what they describe as ethnic cleansing directed against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

They say President Thein Sein, visiting the region for the first time since clashes flared there last year, has done little to crack down on religious intolerance and failed to bridge a divide that has left hundreds of thousands of Muslims marginalized and segregated, many of them confined by security forces in inadequately equipped camps for those who fled their homes.

Thein Sein arrived in Thandwe on Wednesday, the second day of his visit to Rakhine state, and was to meet religious leaders from both communities.

Critics say his security forces have not done enough to contain it. They also say his government has failed to crack down on radical monks who have instilled hatred and fear of the nation's Muslim minority, arguing they pose a threat to Buddhist culture and traditions.

In a message to religious leaders that ran in Myanmar's state-run newspapers Wednesday, Thein Sein said the sectarian unrest threatens the government's reform process "and tarnishes the national image internationally."

State television broadcast a statement Wednesday night from the president expressing sadness over the violence and saying the government would pursue justice. It did not say how many people were injured or killed.

Thein Sein has been widely praised for overseeing an unprecedented political opening in the Southeast Asian nation since the army ceded power two years ago to a nominally civilian government led by retired military officers.

Malaysia, Philippines OK with Obama cancellation

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Malaysian and Philippine governments said Wednesday that they understood President Barack Obama's decision to cancel upcoming visits to their countries.

The White House announced earlier in the day that Obama was calling off stops in Malaysia and the Philippines on his long-planned trip to Asia because of the partial government shutdown.

Obama is scheduled to leave Saturday night for what was originally a four-nation tour. The White House said Obama will still travel to Indonesia and Brunei. The trip is part of Obama's broader focus on boosting U.S. economic ties with Asia.

The White House said Obama called Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on Tuesday to inform them of his change in plans and commit to traveling to both countries later in his term.

Najib said Obama told him that Secretary of State John Kerry will represent the president to address an entrepreneurship conference in Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 11.

Kerry will also travel to Manila for talks with Philippine officials, according to the U.S. Embassy there.

Obama goes to Asia

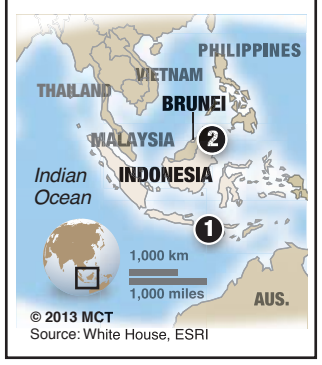
President Barack Obama attends two economic summits on a trip that has been shortened due to the government shutdown in Washington, D.C.

1. Mon., Oct. 7 Arrives in Bali, Indonesia; gives address at APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Economic Leaders meeting

Tues., Oct. 8 Meets APEC leaders; attends Trans-Pacific Partnership meeting; visits with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

2. Wed., Oct. 9 Arrives in Brunei; attends U.S.-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and East Asia summits; meets with Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei

Thurs., Oct. 10 Attends summit; returns to Washington



DAY OF UNITY

Saturday, October 5, 2013

Koblerville Youth Learning Center

Koblerville, Saipan

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

In honor of

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

"Create Peace. Teach Love. Inspire Hope."

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force invite you to an afternoon of arts and activities to promote peace and unity in our community.

1:00 pm to 1:30pm, Registration

1: 30 pm to 4:30 pm, Culture and Art Performances

4:30 pm to 5:00 pm , Registration for Men's Walk

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Men's Walk Against Domestic Violence

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Candlelight Vigil

Special thanks to the

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR · COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS · OFFICIAL SEAL · YOUTH AFFAIRS OFFICE

This project is 100% supported by Grant #G-1101MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Massive road accident kills 28 in northeast India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Police say a massive road accident involving a cargo truck and two minivans in northeast India has left 28 people dead, including 13 children, and another 20 injured. Barpeta district police say the 10-wheeler truck slammed into the oncoming minivans just after dawn Thursday about 160 kilometers (100 miles) west of Gauhati, the capital of Assam state. The minivans had been carrying workers, some with their children, to a local brick kiln. The truck was traveling to the neighboring state of West Bengal. Local TV broadcasts showed a huge crowd surrounding 28 bodies covered in white sheets and lined up on green grass.

Hornet attack death toll in China reaches 41

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from a rare spate of hornet attacks in central China has reached 41 people, local authorities said Wednesday. The Shaanxi provincial government said in a statement that the attacks had plagued not only the city of Ankang, where 19 died as reported by the official Xinhua News Agency, but had killed 22 others in two adjacent cities in the province's south. All told, more than 1,600 people have been injured, and 37 of them are in critical or serious condition in hospitals, the provincial government said. The provincial government said hornets are most aggressive in behavior when they mate and migrate in September and October.

Bomb kills 2 Pakistan soldiers in quake-hit region

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected separatists killed two Pakistani soldiers Wednesday, in a wave of attacks targeting troops doing relief work in a remote region of the country's southwest where a major earthquake killed at least 376 people last week, military officials said. Also in southwestern Baluchistan province but far from the earthquake zone, a bomb went off at the Pakistan-Afghan border, killing six people and wounding 11 others, said Pakistani security officials.

Roadside bombing kills 3 Afghan army soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A police official says three Afghan army soldiers died and four were wounded when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in the country's south. Ahmad Shah Salim, police chief in the Nawa district of Helmand province, says the incident occurred on Wednesday while the soldiers were on a regular patrol. He says the soldiers' vehicle was destroyed in the explosion.

World

Popes John Paul II, John XXIII to be canonized together in April

By HENRY CHU
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON—The pope who tried to modernize the Roman Catholic Church and the one who directed its moral force against godless communism will be officially declared saints next April, the Vatican announced Monday.

John XXIII and John Paul II are to be canonized together in an unusual double bill that could see not just one but two of their successors attend the April 27, 2014, ceremony. It would be an unprecedented event uniting a pair of dead pontiffs with a pair of living ones, the reigning Pope Francis and the retired Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Francis decided in July that the names of John XXIII and John Paul II would be "inscribed in the book of saints" at the same time, a clear signal of his personal admiration for and identification with their pontificates.

John XXIII convened the historic Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, which instituted such reforms as Masses in the vernacular, instead of Latin, to bring the church and the gospel closer to contemporary believers. Many of those changes remain controversial, but in a lengthy, recently published interview, Francis lauded Vatican II for reviving the faith and described its modernizing work as "absolutely irreversible."

"Vatican II produced a renewal movement that simply comes from the same gospel. Its fruits are enormous," the pope said. The Polish John Paul II, the first non-Italian to lead the church in more than 400 years, was beloved by Catholics the world over for his warm, personal style and his unbending opposition to Soviet communism.

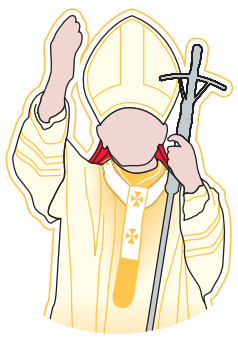
Becoming saints

Pope Francis will canonize two former popes next year on April 27.

Pope John XXIII	Pope John Paul II
Born 1881 Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli	**Born** 1920 Karol Jozef Wojtyla
Papacy 1958-1963	**Papacy** 1978-2005
Died 1963	**Died** 2005
Beatified Sept. 2000 by Pope John Paul II	**Beatified** 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI

Steps to sainthood

Process of being declared a saint by the Roman Catholic:



Examination
- Typically, a candidate must be dead at least five years before review
- Local bishop put in charge of investigating candidate's life
- If deemed worthy, called "servant of God"

Veneration
- If investigation shows candidate lived by heroic Christian virtues, earns title "venerable"

Beatification
- If it is proved that candidate is responsible for a posthumous miracle, candidate declared "blessed"; martyrs can be beatified without evidence of miracle

Canonization (sainthood)
- After proof of a second posthumous miracle, the pope will canonize the candidate

© 2013 MCT
Source: AP, Catholic Online

Weapons experts start Syria mission amid clashes

BEIRUT (AP)—Deadly clashes raged on the edge of Damascus on Wednesday and rival rebel factions battled each other in northern Syria as international chemical weapons inspectors began to secure the sites where they will work.

The fighting underscored the immense security challenge that the dozens of disarmament experts must negotiate as they work amid the civil war to meet tight deadlines for eliminating President Bashar Assad's estimated 1,000-ton arsenal of chemical weapons.

The inspectors' mission—endorsed by a U.N. Security Council resolution passed last week—is to scrap Syria's capacity to manufacture chemical weapons by Nov. 1 and destroy its entire stockpile by mid-2014.

A convoy of SUVs with U.N. markings departed the central Damascus hotel where the team from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is staying as the inspectors headed out for their first full day in the country.

The U.N. and OPCW said in a statement that "joint work with the Syrian authorities has begun on securing the sites where the team will operate, especially in outlying areas." It added that planning continues for disabling production facilities as do discussions on the size of Syria's stockpile.

One of the challenges the inspectors face is navigating the war itself.

On the northern edge of Damascus, fierce clashes between Syrian troops and al-Qaida-linked fighters killed at least 19 soldiers and pro-government militiamen in the past three days, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The fighting in the contested district of Barzeh flared Monday when the army stepped up attacks against opposition forces who have been trying to capture the area for months, the Observatory said.

5TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

†Maximina Reyes Flores

Lovingly known as "Max"

We, the family, humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of Intentions will be offered every evening beginning Monday, October 7, 2013 through Monday, October 14, 2013 at San Vicente Church at 6:00PM.

On the final day, Tuesday, October 15, 2013 Mass will be offered at 6:00PM. Dinner will be served immediately at the San Vicente Social Hall.

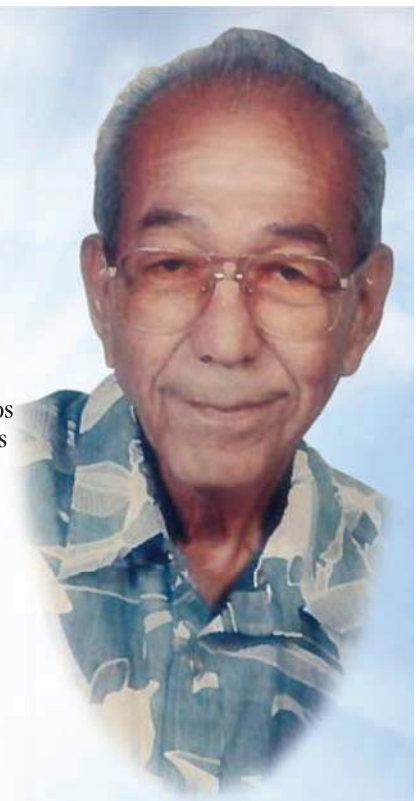
Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

In Loving Memory

†Alfonso Arriola Palacios

July 15, 1933- September 27, 2013



In his new life, He now joins:
His Parents, †Lucia San Miguel Arriola and †Jose Muna Palacios
His Parents In-law, †Jose Cabrera Pangelinan and †Maria Reyes
His Step-Son, †David P. Sablan
His Son In-Laws, †Dae-Young (Daniel) Park
†Thomas Fujihira Ada
†Joaquin Guillermo Adriano
His Brothers, †Jose A. Palacios, †Miguel A. Palacios
His Brother In-laws, †Juan Rios Mafnas, †Jose Concepcion, †Francisco R. Pangelinan

His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of his
Wife, Emilia Pangelinan Palacios
Children,
Jose P. & Vicenta Muna Sablan and Children, Antonio P. Sablan & Patricia Concepcion and Children
Consuelo P. & Gregorio Baza and Children, Marian Palacios & Alvin Ogo and Children
Barbara P. & +Thomas Ada and Children, Alexander P. Sablan & Cecilia Repeki and Children
Donald P. Palacios & Elizabeth Tebuteb and Children, Regina Pangelinan,
Albert P. Palacios & Tricia Babauta and Children, Summer P. Palacios.

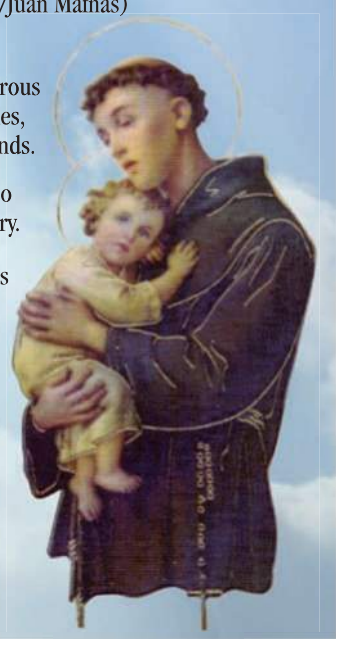
Brothers/Sisters and Spouses,
†Jose & Lolita Palacios and Family. Dolores P. & †Joaquin Deleon Guerrero and Family Ana P. & Francisco Sablan and Family, †Miguel A. & Pilar Palacios and Family, Maria (Mako) & Estanislao (Yoshi) Fujihara and Family, Jesus A. & Leonora Palacios and Family, Carmen P. & Joey Dela Cerna, Eleuterio A. & Erlinda Palacios and Family, Antonio A. & Congxiang Palacios and Family.

In-laws and Spouses
Victoria P. Concepcion † (Jose Concepcion/Juan Mafnas) and Hilarion P. & Maxima Dlc. Pangelinan

Alfonso will also be remembered by numerous Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Uncles, Aunts, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins, and Friends.

Nightly Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, October 05, 2013 his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to San Antonio Church at 7:30am followed by Responso and Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30am, followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.



Please join us in prayer.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase

The Family

Science & Technology

Gene scans solve mystery diseases in kids, adults

AP

This Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013 photo provided by Ashley Wonderly shows Cannon Collier, 4, in Georgetown, Texas. His parents, Lindsey and Brandon Collier searched for years for an answer to what was plaguing their son.

They were mystery diseases that had stumped doctors for years—adults with strange symptoms and children with neurological problems, mental slowness or muscles too weak to let them stand. Now scientists say they were able to crack a quarter of these cases by decoding the patients' genes.

Their study is the first large-scale effort to move gene sequencing out of the lab and into ordinary medical care, and it shows that high hopes for this technology are finally paying off.

"This is a direct benefit of the Human Genome Project," the big effort to decode our DNA, said Dr. Christine M. Eng of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "We're now able to directly benefit patients through more accurate diagnosis."

She led the study, which was published online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. It gives results on the first 250 patients referred to Baylor for a newer type of sequencing—just the DNA segments that hold the recipes for all the proteins the body needs. That's only about 1 percent of the whole genome.

Baylor has sequenced more patients beyond those in the study—1,700 so far—and found gene flaws in 1 out of 4, Eng said.

That rate will improve as more genes are linked to diseases, but it's already much higher than the less comprehensive gene tests done now, said Rebecca Nagy, a scientist at Ohio State University and president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors.

"For some of these conditions there could be treatments that are lifesaving," she said.

Already, three people tested at Baylor were found to have a muscle disorder that can cause respiratory problems and even death. The condition is aggravated by infections and stress, and there are drugs to treat those and prevent serious episodes, Eng said.

In other cases, having a diagnosis helped parents like Lindsey and Brandon Collier decide whether to have more children. The Colliers, who live in Georgetown, Texas, about 30 miles north of Austin, searched for years for an answer to what was plaguing their son, Cannon, now 4.

"He was a pretty floppy baby" with poor muscle tone and problems eating, Lindsey Collier said. "We weren't getting any answers and they were just all over the map on everything they were testing for."

"It is a huge weight lifted off our shoulders" she said of testing at Baylor that found a rare muscle disorder.

Genetic counselors said the problem was not likely to occur in other offspring, so the Colliers had a second child. Their 6-week-old daughter, Smith, is fine, and Cannon is being helped now by intensive physical therapy and other treatments.

Just having a diagnosis is very valuable because it ends the expensive and emotionally exhausting testing that parents go through, said Dr. Robert C. Green, a geneticist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

"Many of these are children or adults that have had a mystery illness for many years. Their families don't know what it is and they're sort of desperate for an answer," and it's not possible to find a treatment until you find the cause, he said.

Google marks 15th anniversary with search upgrades

By BRANDON BAILEY
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Fifteen years after Google Inc. was started by two Stanford graduate students, the giant Internet company on Thursday used the Menlo Park, Calif., garage that housed the company's first office to show off some recent advances in its search technology.

The changes include a subtle redesign of the Google mobile apps for Android and Apple devices, intended to make it easier to ask spoken questions in more conversational phrases. Google is also adding a feature that will show clickable samples of songs or works of art in a carousel across the top of a computer screen, in response to questions about music or art.

Another new feature will show comparative information, side by side, when users ask about the nutritional qualities of two foods, for example. And in a change that is less obvious, but perhaps more significant, Google Vice President Amit Singhal also disclosed that the company has revamped its algorithms to accommodate more complex searches, in what he described as the most significant overhaul since 2010 in the underlying formulas that power Google's search engine.

Comparing the change to switching out jet engines while an airplane is in midflight, Singhal said, "Our algorithm had to go through some fundamental rethinking of how we are going to keep our results relevant," as people ask increasingly complex questions.

While most of the changes build on new features and services that Google has been introducing in the past year, the company used the occasion of its 15th anniversary to talk about its progress toward making search more useful and relevant.

"Google will keep reinventing itself to give you all the answers you need in a simple, intuitive experience," Singhal said. Holding up one of the company's wearable Glass devices, he added, "Someday having to pull a cellphone out of your pocket to search will feel as archaic as a dial-up modem."

The company was officially incorporated on Sept. 4, 1998, according to documents on file with the California Secretary of State's office, but Google usually celebrates the anniversary of its launch at the end of September, for reasons that aren't clear, a spokeswoman said.

Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin developed their original search formulas at Stanford. At the time they launched the company, the dot-com boom was heating up and office space was hard to find. But recent Stanford graduate student Susan Wojcicki was looking for help paying her mortgage and offered to rent out her garage.

Brin and Page worked from the home on Menlo Park's Santa Margarita Avenue for about five months, until the company had grown to seven employees and the founders decided they needed more room, Wojcicki told reporters Thursday.

Amazon's Bezos completes Washington Post purchase

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Post now belongs to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

The Washington Post Co. said Tuesday that it had completed the sale of the newspaper publishing business to Bezos, who said in August he was buying it for $250 million.

The soon-to-be-renamed Washington Post Co. is retaining the Kaplan education business, Slate magazine, TheRoot.com and Foreign Policy magazine, as well as the Post's headquarters building in downtown Washington. Bezos' newspaper will lease space in the building.

The Post, celebrated a generation ago for breaking the Watergate scandal, has been losing readers and advertisers to the Internet while watching its value plummet.

Bezos is buying the newspaper as an individual. Amazon.com Inc. is not involved.

TECH Q&A

Forward an email but not the addresses

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: How can I delete a group of email addresses from an email I'm forwarding? I use Windows.—Leon Rogers, Mayfield, Ky.

ANSWER: Your email program can't forward only part of a message; the Internet mail system isn't built that way.

But there is a workaround. You can copy the original email and paste it into a word processing program, then use the program to delete the email addresses you don't want to share. Just erase the To and CC, or "carbon copy," lines of the original email.

Copy the edited message and paste it into a new email. Then address the email to the person with whom you were reluctant to share all those addresses. After you hit "send," the recipient will see only your email address.

For editing, use the free Windows program Notepad. Go to "Start," choose "All Programs" and click on "Accessories." Click on Notepad to open it.

Q: I recently received a call from a man who said he represented "Windows Service Center" in California. He told me there was a problem with my security online, and that my information was "leaking" out over the Internet. I asked for his identification and telephone numbers, but he said he had none and transferred me to his supervisor, who was difficult to understand. Then we were disconnected somehow. The first man then called back twice more.

My son said I shouldn't divulge any personal information to these people, and should ignore their calls. Is this business legitimate?—Nancy Schenecker, Covington, La.

A: No, they're not legitimate, and everything they told you was false. There's an NBC News story about this scam at http://tinyurl.com/kou6xgo. Your son is right. Don't have anything to do with these people.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Off the Wall

Cameras capture eagle killing deer in Russia

LONDON (AP)—The eagle, red-handed.

Remote cameras intended to monitor Siberian tigers in Russia instead caught a golden eagle's fatal attack on a deer, snapping three photos as the massive bird dug its talons into the distressed animal's back.

London's Zoological Society, which distributed the pictures to journalists, said the sequence showed a rare but not unheard of attack by a golden eagle. The society's Linda Kerley said she first realized something was up when she approached the wildlife-monitoring device—also called a camera trap—and found a mangled deer carcass nearby.

"Something felt wrong about it," she said in a statement accompanying the photographs. "There were no large carnivore tracks in the snow, and it looked like the deer had been running and then just stopped and died.

AP

In this photo taken from a remote camera at the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve in the Primorye region of Russia's Far East on Dec. 8, 2011, a golden eagle attacks a deer.

"It was only after we got back to camp that I checked the images from the camera and pieced everything together," she said. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Golden eagles are large birds. Their wingspan tops more than 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) and, while they typically eat small birds, mammals, or snakes, they've been known to target larger animals as well.

It's rare for a camera to catch such an attack in progress, and the photos have been an online sensation.

The zoological society said the photos were shot in the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve in the Primorye region of Russia's Far East on Dec. 8, 2011. The pictures were released only after the publication of a scholarly article by Kerley and co-author Jonathan Slaght of the Wildlife Conservation Society in the Ohio-based Journal of Raptor Research earlier this month.

Jewels on French mountain may be from plane crash

PARIS (AP)—A French mountain climber stumbled upon a case of dozens of cut jewels, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars—believed to be debris from one of two Air India crashes decades ago, police said.

Police commander Sylvain Merly of France's Savoie region said the experienced Mont Blanc climber, who asked to stay anonymous, found the box marked "Made in India" while scaling one of the peak's glaciers and turned it in on Sept. 9. Authorities hope to find someone connected with its owner, who is presumed to have been a passenger on one of the two jets that crashed in 1950 or 1966.

Merly said Thursday the metal box, slightly smaller than a shoe box, was filled with small bags of loose jewels, mostly emeralds and sapphires. Merly said debris from the Air India crashes regularly rises to the surface on Mont Blanc.

"Things come up from the glaciers," Merly said. "They're always moving."

Merly said the climber's decision to turn over the box immediately "means that there are still honest people."

"He could have kept them but he chose to turn them in because he knew they belonged to someone who probably perished," Merly said.

It wasn't immediately clear what would happen to the jewels if nobody claimed them.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Abandoned gold bars baffle German police

BERLIN (AP)—Attention all passengers: could the person who left a stash of gold bars and a pile of banknotes in the luggage deposit at Cologne's main railway station kindly contact German police? That was the appeal that police in the western German city issued Friday for information to track down the owner of the several kilos (pounds) of gold and a six-figure sum of euros in cash. The stash was found in April in a luggage locker at the station, a major European transport hub. Police said they're going public after being unable to link the haul to any crime and hearing nothing from any legitimate owner. Whoever the owner is shouldn't leave it too much longer. Police say that if nobody comes forward, the stash will be sold.

Text mistakenly sent to cop leads to arrest in NJ

SPARTA, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say a New Jersey man mistakenly sent a text message to a police detective to set up a drug sale and now faces charges. Authorities say a detective received the text message on his new cellphone Friday night. The sender had said he had a quarter pound of marijuana for sale and wanted to meet at a pizza parlor. Nicholas Delear Jr., of Sussex, met later that night with an undercover police officer but fled when he became suspicious. Police soon stopped his vehicle, but the 33-year-old Delear refused to consent to his vehicle being searched. Authorities obtained a warrant after a police dog detected drugs in the vehicle. They found four plastic bags containing marijuana and other paraphernalia.

Suburban Dallas cop helps deliver surprise baby

CARROLLTON, Texas (AP)—A suburban Dallas police officer ended up playing midwife to one mother in labor. Gene Kimpton says he entered a home in Carrollton Wednesday morning with his weapon drawn. All he knew is there was some sort of emergency situation in the house. There was. A young boy pointed Kimpton into the bathroom, where his mother—who hadn't realized she was pregnant—was in labor. Kimpton helped guide the baby boy out and wrapped him in a towel until paramedics arrived and cut the umbilical cord. Police say the mother and child are resting comfortably at an area hospital.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Rafael Villagomez Torres

May 25, 1944 - September 24, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife:	Carmen Mendiola Torres
Parents:	Juana Villagomez & Joaquin Torres
Parents In-Law:	Francisca Santos & Vicente Babauta Mendiola
Brothers:	Jose V. Torres
	Vicente V. Torres
Brothers In-Law:	Juan S. Dela Cruz
	Juan S. Mendiola
	George Nada

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children and Families:

Joaquin M. & Antonia Torres: Nicole, Nikita & Brandon (Irie & Damien), Joaquin
Jerilyn T & Dennis Teregeyo: Jonathan & Sherri, Carmana & Chris (Isaiah & Christopher Jr.), Coquina, Cara, Joaquin, Jacob
Romana T. & Pedro Kileleman : Shayna, Shawna & Joel (Joel & Carlia), Shawn, Raphael & Meagan (Ayuko), Joaquin
Vincent M. & Clarissa Torres: Vanavie & Vincent (Chase), Margarita (Ian), Chelsey, Rosanna & Jonathan (JV), Kimberly, Camille & Derek (DJ & Callie), Vincent Rafael, Vincent, Vincent Jr.
Joanna M. Torres: Levonne & Edwin (Karmeann & Ezekiel), Jovaugh (Jovaughn Jr.) Jonah Raphael
Frances T. & Leonardo Tudela: Leonardo Raphael, Lance
Ralph M. & Ruby Torres: Thomas, Tinisha, Ralph, Casilda, Jerraine, Jana
Suzie Torres & Memorino Elieisar: Franzie, Memorino Junior, Memzie
Lori Torres & Slade Adelbai

Brothers and Sisters In-Law: Jesus & Terry Castro, Ana M. & Roman Tudela, Susana Mendiola, Lydia M. Dela Cruz, Primitiva DLG. Torres

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered at St. Jude Church at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Holy Rosary.
Saturday, October 5, 2013, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to St. Jude Church at 7:45 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m., followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You and Si'Yuus Ma'ase

The Family

Life & Style

‘Red October’ novelist Tom Clancy dies at 66

NEW YORK (AP)—In 1985, a year after the Cold War thriller “The Hunt for Red October” came out, author Tom Clancy was invited to lunch at the Reagan White House, where he was questioned by Navy Secretary John Lehman.

Who, the secretary wanted to know, gave Clancy access to all that secret material?

Clancy, the best-selling novelist who died Tuesday in Baltimore at 66, insisted then, and after, that his information was strictly unclassified: books, interviews and papers that were easily obtained. Also, two submarine officers reviewed the final manuscript.

In an interview with The New York Times in 1987, he explained that unclassified information can lead to insights about state secrets.

“One of the reasons we are so successful is that we have a free society with open access to information,” he said. “If you change that, if you try to close off the channels of information, we’ll end up just like the Russians, and their society does not work. The best way to turn America into another Russia is to emulate their methods of handling information.”

Government officials may have worried how Clancy knew that a Russian submarine spent only about 15 percent of its time at sea or how many SS-N-20 Seahawk missiles it carried. But his extreme attention to technical detail and accuracy earned him respect inside the intelligence community and beyond and helped make Clancy the most widely read and influential military novelist of his time, one who seemed to capture a shift in the country’s mood away from the CIA misdeeds that were exposed in the 1970s to the heroic feats of Clancy’s most famous creation, CIA analyst Jack Ryan.

AP

This 2010 image released by G.P. Putnam Sons shows author Tom Clancy in Huntingtown, Md. Clancy, the bestselling author of “The Hunt for Red October” and other wildly successful technological thrillers, has died. He was 66.

“Thrillers, like all art, are always a reflection of the culture,” said fellow author Brad Meltzer. “No one captured that Cold War fear—and that uniquely American perspective- like Clancy. Jack Ryan wasn’t just a character. He was us. He was every American in those days when we were a push-of-the-button away from nuclear war.”

Fans couldn’t turn the pages fast enough and a number of his high-tech, geopolitical thrillers, including “The Hunt for Red October,” “Patriot Games” and “Clear and Present Danger,” were made into blockbuster movies, with another, “Jack Ryan,” set for release on Christmas.

“Fundamentally, I think of myself as a storyteller, not a writer,” Clancy once said. “I think about the characters I’ve created, and then I sit down and start typing and see what they will do. There’s a lot of subconscious thought that goes on. It amazes me to find out, a few chapters later, why I put someone in a certain place when I did. It’s spooky.”

A tall, trim figure given to wearing sunglasses that made him look like a fighter pilot, Clancy had such a sure grasp of defense technology and spycraft that many readers were convinced he served in the military. But his experience was limited to ROTC classes in college. Near-sightedness kept him out of active duty.

He was a political conservative who backed the Vietnam War as a college student and once referred to Ronald Reagan as “my president.” Clancy broke through commercially during a tense period of the Cold War, and with the help of Reagan himself.

In 1982, he began working on “The Hunt for Red October,” drawing inspiration from a real-life 1975 mutiny aboard a Soviet missile frigate. He sold the manuscript to the first publisher he tried, the Naval Institute Press, which had never bought original fiction. In real life, the mutiny was put down, but in Clancy’s book, a Soviet submarine skipper hands his vessel over to the U.S. and defects.

Jury rejects case linking company to Jackson death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury cleared a concert promoter of negligence on Wednesday in a case that attempted to link the death of Michael Jackson to the company that promoted his ill-fated comeback shows.

The panel rejected a lawsuit brought by Jackson’s mother claiming AEG Live was negligent in hiring Conrad Murray, the doctor who killed Jackson with an overdose of a hospital anesthetic the singer used as a sleep aid.

The five-month trial provided the closest look yet at Jackson’s drug use and his battles against chronic pain and insomnia.

It also took jurors behind the scenes in the rough-and-tumble world of negotiations with one of the world’s most famous entertainers looking to solidify his legendary status after scandal interrupted his career.

With its verdict, the jury also delivered a somewhat surprising message: Jurors did not believe Murray was unfit or incompetent to perform his duties involving Jackson.

“That doesn’t mean we felt he was ethical,” jury foreman Gregg Barden said after the verdict was read.

He said the panel knew many people would not agree with the verdict but explained that the jury followed the language of the verdict form and instructions.

The ruling on the competence of Murray ended any further consideration of possible damages and who was at fault for the death. AEG Live lawyers suggested throughout the trial that Jackson was the only one to blame for his death.

“AEG didn’t do anything wrong and would not allow themselves to be shaken down,” lead defense attorney Marvin S. Putnam said.

After the hearing, juror Bryant Carino of Los Angeles was asked who was to blame for Jackson’s death.

“I don’t want to say whose fault it is,” the 36-year-old Carino responded. “I’m not one to point fingers.”

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RUNNER RUNNER [CC] (R) Fri.(515 PM) 745 PM 1005 PM Sat.(230 515) 745 1005 Sun.(230 PM 515 PM) 745 PM Mon.(515 PM) 745 PM
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 [CC] (PG) Fri.705 PM 930 PM Sat.(445 PM) 705 PM 930 PM Sun.(445 PM) 705 PM Mon.705 PM
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 3D [CC] (PG) Fri.(445 PM) Sat. - Sun.(225 PM) Mon.(445 PM)
PRISONERS [CC,DV] (R) Fri.(400 PM) 720 PM 1035 PM Sat.(1245 400) 720 1035 Sun.(1245 PM 400 PM) 720 PM Mon.(400 PM) 720 PM
INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 2 [CC] (PG-13) Fri.(430 PM) 700 PM 945 PM Sat.(200 430) 700 945 Sun.(200 PM 430 PM) 700 PM Mon.(430 PM) 700 PM
THE FAMILY [CC] (R) Fri.(435 PM) 735 PM 1025 PM Sat.(145 435) 735 1025 Sun.(145 PM 435 PM) 735 PM Mon.(435 PM) 735 PM
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS [CC] (PG) Fri.(425 PM) 725 PM 1020 PM Sat.(125 425) 725 1020 Sun.(125 PM 425 PM) 725 PM Mon.(425 PM) 725 PM
Times For 10/04 - 10/07 © 2013 www.REGmovies.com

Marc Jacobs says farewell to Louis Vuitton

PARIS (AP)—What was likely designer Marc Jacobs’ last ready-to-wear collection for Louis Vuitton looked like a show in mourning Wednesday—black, black and more black.

A dark fountain and a nightmarish carousel with inky horses were the backdrop for a universe of clothes all in black. Maids cleaned away dust from the steps of the disturbing set, which traced Jacobs’ influential 16-year reign at Vuitton.

Shortly after the show at the Louvre Museum in Paris, the visual metaphor was explained: French luxury conglomerate LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton announced that Jacobs was stepping down as creative director of its flagship brand.

Jacobs, who is also the director of an eponymous brand, is one of the biggest names in the fashion industry. Under his tenure, Louis Vuitton became the most lucrative fashion house in the world, in part thanks to his creation of a ready-to-wear line.

LVMH, which owns the Louis Vuitton brand and an array of other luxury names purveying everything from jewelry to champagne, would not say who would replace Jacobs or what his next move would be.

From her front-row seat, U.S. Vogue editor Anna Wintour gave Jacobs an ovation at Wednesday’s show.

“Fashion needs rock stars, and they don’t come any starrier than Marc at Louis Vuitton,” she told The Associated Press in an email. “He has always understood that it is a house about travel, and every season he has taken us on incredible journeys with his spectacular shows—shows that made Vuitton a global phenomenon but always brought you back to the heart of Paris.”

Such visible acclaim from the powerful editor—to whom he partly dedicated the show—is extremely rare.

On the Vuitton catwalk, models filed by in jet-black warrior-feathered headdresses as they displayed Jacobs’ 41 designs.

‘Vampire Diaries’ villain gets CW spinoff

NEW YORK (AP)—The big, bad villain on the CW’s “The Vampire Diaries” is getting his own series.

Joseph Morgan first appeared during season two as Klaus Mikaelson, one of the world’s first vampires, who is also half-werewolf. He was a series regular in the third and fourth seasons.

“I love it,” said the 32-year-old Morgan. “It’s been one of the most fun characters I’ve ever played.”

Fans loved Morgan’s Klaus and his fellow vampire family members. They were making YouTube videos about the clan before the spinoff was announced.

In “The Originals,” Klaus moves to New Orleans after being away for about a hundred years and wants to take over the city, now ruled by his protege vampire, Marcel.

Morgan, who is joined on the series by “Vampire Diaries” cast members Daniel Gilles, Claire Holt and Phoebe Tonkin, says “The Originals” is darker in tone than its predecessor.

The show premieres Thursday (9 p.m. EDT), but will begin airing in its regular Tuesday time slot (8 p.m. EDT) beginning Oct. 8.

This July 30, 2013 file photo shows actor Joseph Morgan at the “The Originals” panel at the CW Summer TCA in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

AP: How would you describe Klaus?

Morgan: Klaus is an original vampire. His family was the first vampires to ever walk the planet. He’s also a hybrid. He’s half-vampire, half-werewolf because his father was a werewolf, different to his siblings. (His siblings had a different father.) So, when we were made vampires 1,000 years ago and we each made our first kills, part of the werewolf curse is when you make your first kill, you transform (into a wolf), so it was then that my hybrid nature became apparent. Because of that, Klaus is pretty much indestructible. There’s a very, very complicated way that he can be killed, but I don’t think anyone needs to know that. (Laughs.) We don’t need to go into those details. Nobody needs to know how he dies.

AP: What’s it like to star in your own show?

Morgan: For me it’s more consuming because I’m just in more of it. There’s more to do. I’m interacting with almost every character and my character is talked about a lot in the scenes I’m not in. (Laughs.)

AP: Klaus was a big deal on “The Vampire Diaries.” He was talked about before he showed up on the show. Did you realize how important the role was to the story?

Morgan: I thought about like, `You know, maybe he should have a different name like they could call him like William or something.’ And then I looked up (the character) online and I was like, `Oh, no. This is already an established thing. We can’t go changing this.’

AP: Have you ever been a hyper-fan of something where the details have been important to you?

Morgan: I get quite passionate about `The Walking Dead’ and the relationship between the graphic novels and the TV series, like `how can Dale be dead already when he hasn’t done the bit where the cannibals eat his legs after he’s been bitten and he hasn’t laughed because they’re eating dead meat?’ And `that’s such a great moment and I understand why they had to do it, but you know I would’ve liked to see that moment on film.’ So, yeah, there’s some of that.

AP: Viewers learned in the pilot for “The Originals” that Klaus might become a father. Wouldn’t it be interesting if there’s a baby on the set?

Morgan: Yeah! Right? It’s interesting. It will be a very different direction. ... To bring a baby into the mix will be a whole new thing.

Mia Farrow: 'Possible' son is Sinatra's

NEW YORK (AP)—Mia Farrow says in an interview with Vanity Fair that it's possible her son with Woody Allen is instead Frank Sinatra's.

Farrow told the magazine that she and Sinatra "never really split up" and when asked if Ronan Farrow might actually be Sinatra's son, she answered, "Possibly."

Ronan Farrow tweeted Wednesday: "Listen, we're all (asterisk)possibly(asterisk) Frank Sinatra's son."

A representative for Allen told The Associated Press, "The article is so fictitious and extravagantly absurd that he is not going to comment."

Mia Farrow was married to Sinatra for 18 months. Asked about the Sinatra family's relationship with Ronan, the singer's daughter, Nancy Sinatra Jr., told the magazine he "is a big part of us, and we are blessed to have him in our lives."

Farrow and Allen had a 12 year relationship but split in 1992, when the actress discovered the director was having an affair with her adopted daughter from another marriage, Soon-Yi Previn, now Allen's wife. A lengthy custody battle followed for Ronan and the couple's two other children, in which Farrow accused Allen of sexually abusing another adopted child.

Allen's attorney continued to deny the allegations in a statement to the magazine.

Ronan Farrow graduated from college at 15 and went to Yale Law School before becoming a Rhodes scholar and special adviser to the Secretary of State for global youth issues.

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2011 file photo released by the United Nations Foundation, Ronan Farrow, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues, speaks during the Social Good Summit in New York.

'Glee' actor Monteith died of heroin and alcohol mix

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—The British Columbia Coroners Service said Wednesday investigators found a spoon with drug residue and a used hypodermic needle in the hotel room where "Glee" actor Cory Monteith was found dead in July.

The coroner's final report issued Wednesday, confirmed initial findings that Monteith died from using intravenous heroin combined with alcohol.

Monteith

The 31-year-old Canadian-born actor was found dead in a Vancouver hotel room July 13.

"I classify this death as accidental," coroner Claire Thompson said in her report.

Monteith had checked into the hotel on July 6 and when he didn't check out as expected on July 13, hotel staff entered his room and found him unresponsive on the floor. Two empty bottles of champagne were also found in the room.

"Mr. Monteith was found in a collapsed position the hotel room floor," the report said. "It appeared that Mr. Monteith had been dead for several hours."

Hotel video footage showed him returning alone to his room at 2:16 a.m. on July 13.

The investigation said Monteith had a history of illicit drug use with intermittent periods of rehabilitation and of abstinence from drugs. It said when people who have refrained from using opioids such as heroin for a while, their tolerance for the drug decreases.

Monteith was honored at the Emmy awards last month.

His death recalled the lives of Heath Ledger, Corey Haim and River Phoenix—actors who battled substance abuse and died in their 20s and 30s.

Monteith had talked bluntly about struggling with addiction since he was a teenager, calling it a serious problem and telling Parade magazine in 2011 he was "lucky to be alive."

In that interview, he said he was using marijuana and drinking by age 13, and his drug use was "out of control" by the time he was 16. "Anything and everything, as much as possible," he said. "I had a serious problem."

Monteith admitted himself to a treatment facility in April for substance addiction, a representative said at the time.

"Glee," with its catchy song-and-dance numbers and high-profile guest stars like Gwyneth Paltrow and Britney Spears, became an instant hit when it debuted in 2009. Monteith served as the show's resident hunk with a heart of gold. The show's producers have called him an exceptional performer "and an even more exceptional person."

Sotomayor, Spielberg win Harvard Du Bois medals

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and director and producer Steven Spielberg were among six people Wednesday to receive Harvard University's highest honor in the field of African and African-American studies.

Harvard honored its W.E.B. Du Bois medal winners at a ceremony Wednesday. The medals have been awarded since 2000.

The Hutchins Center for African and African-American Research, which presents the medals, credited Sotomayor with being the first Latina to serve on the high court and for speaking frequently of her upbringing, helping to influence and inspire children trying to succeed in the face of adversity.

Sotomayor said she was "deeply humbled" by the award.

"I am always reminded and continue to remember that I never stand alone because I do stand on the shoulders ... of so many people in this room and everyone who preceded me to open the door of opportunity," Sotomayor said. "I try to remember that paying forward is an obligation that I must not only undertake but that gives meaning to all our lives."

The center cited Spielberg not only for his many filmmaking accomplishments but also for his establishment of a foundation to record oral histories of those who survived the Holocaust and other genocides. Those include the Righteous Persons Foundation which provides grants to promote cooperation and cross-cultural understanding among ethnically and religiously diverse groups across America.

Spielberg, whose movie credits include "Lincoln" and "Amistad," based on the 1839 mutiny of newly captured slaves, called the award "an incredible honor."

"This is a laurel upon which I promise not to rest but instead to keep moving uphill because nothing gets done unless we're all going uphill," Spielberg said. "When we get to the top maybe I'll look down and say, well I earned it then."

The medals were also given to senior presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett, playwright Tony Kushner, Georgia civil rights activist and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, and NBA Commissioner David Stern.

Jarrett and Lewis were unable to attend the ceremony in Harvard's Memorial Hall.

Among those presenting the awards were Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and former Boston Celtics great Bill Russell.

Bieber won't be charged for alleged threat

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber won't face criminal charges for allegedly threatening a neighbor who complained about his driving.

City News Service says Los Angeles County prosecutors decided Wednesday that there's insufficient evidence to charge the pop star.

A neighbor in Bieber's gated Calabasas neighborhood told a sheriff's deputy that Bieber threatened him and spat in his direction when he confronted the 19-year-old about his driving last March.

Prosecutor Alan Yochelson wrote in a document that Bieber's response seemed "immature" but not necessarily criminal.

He also said there's not enough evidence to charge Bieber over a neighbor's complaint that Bieber drove his Ferrari recklessly through the area in May. Yochelson said it's unclear who was at the wheel.

Messages left for Bieber's representative, Melissa Victor, weren't immediately returned Wednesday.

Pedro Martinez memoir coming next year

NEW YORK (AP)—Pitching great Pedro Martinez has a success story to share—his own.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner has a book deal with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The publisher announced Wednesday that "Pedro" will be published next year and will be co-written by the Boston Herald's Michael Silverman.

Known for his slight physique and wide range of effective pitches, Martinez starred for the Montreal Expos, Boston Red Sox and New York Mets among other teams and won more than 200 games during an 18-year career in the major leagues that ended in 2009.

According to Houghton Mifflin, Martinez will tell "lively, raw stories" about the highs and lows of his time in baseball.

Parents feel weighed down by kids' homework burden

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My kids attend a private school that has made it a goal to be a "blue ribbon" school. To that end, teachers pile on so much homework that many of our parents send our kids to bed after three hours and finish it ourselves. Our kids are completely overwhelmed with senseless piles of busywork.

This summer, our children had to read four substantial books and complete hefty vocabulary packets and math packets that required most of us parents to hire tutors. Our children are stressed, anxious and depressed. We have never indulged them with a lot of video game or TV time. I have considered pulling my kids out of this school, but the public schools around here are awful.

Parents are miserable. Kids are miserable. We want them to have a decent education, but we also want them to be happy people—and right now, no one is happy.

PRESSURED MOM OF PRESSURED KIDS

DEAR PRESSURED: Are you aware that some educators feel that students should have no summer vacation at all, and should be in class year-round? The assignments your children were given may have been designed to keep their skills sharp so they would be prepared for the fall term. Because you and other parents feel your children are being overburdened with busywork, it's time to address this as a group with the principal so you can voice your concerns and get an explanation.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old grandson lies often. His parents are trying to give him consequences for his lying as a "team effort." I don't want to be the stern grandma and have him have bad memories of me. When he lies to me, should I look the other way and ignore it or follow through with my own consequences?

GRANDMA IN ST. PETE, FLA.

DEAR GRANDMA: Would you prefer your grandson remember you as the grandmother whose eye he could spit in, tell her it's raining and she would accept it? It would be better to ask him why he feels it is necessary to lie to someone who loves him, tell him that you expect honesty from him and if you don't receive it there will be MORE consequences. Remember, you are also a part of the team, and this is an important life lesson he needs to learn.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My only son is 18. He didn't attend his prom. He quit school and goes to night school instead. I'll never see him in a cap and gown, holding his diploma. On top of that, he told me six months ago that he's bisexual and that he has a boyfriend in the U.K. I'm having a hard time with all of this.

I taught my son to love and respect everyone, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation. Now I'm afraid I won't have any grandchildren. Even more upsetting, he wants to move to the U.K. to be with his 26-year-old boyfriend.

I feel so cheated—no prom, no graduation, no grandchildren! I'm scared and I cry every day. How do I accept him being him?

CHEATED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR CHEATED: OK, so reality isn't in sync with your fantasy about how your son would turn out. But why are you dwelling on the negative?

Your son is completing his high school education, and with his GED could very well go on to college or a technical school. While he didn't attend his prom, he has found a meaningful relationship. He may eventually give you the grandchildren you long for—other same-sex couples have done it.

So look on the bright side. If you count your blessings, encourage him and accept the man he loves, you could have a life of adventure and international travel, a warm relationship with both of them and gain a son.

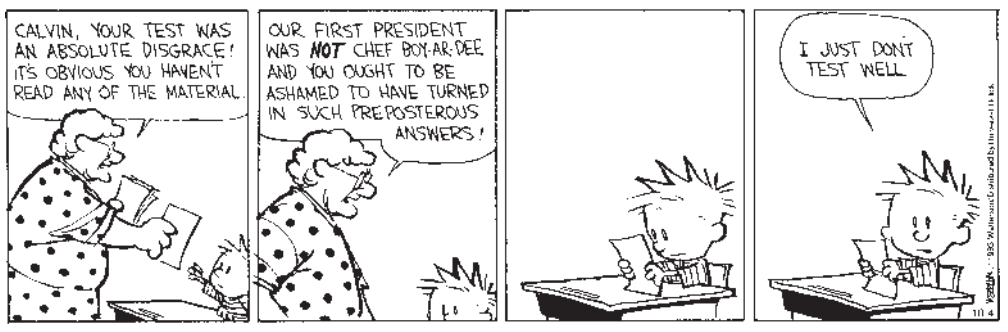
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

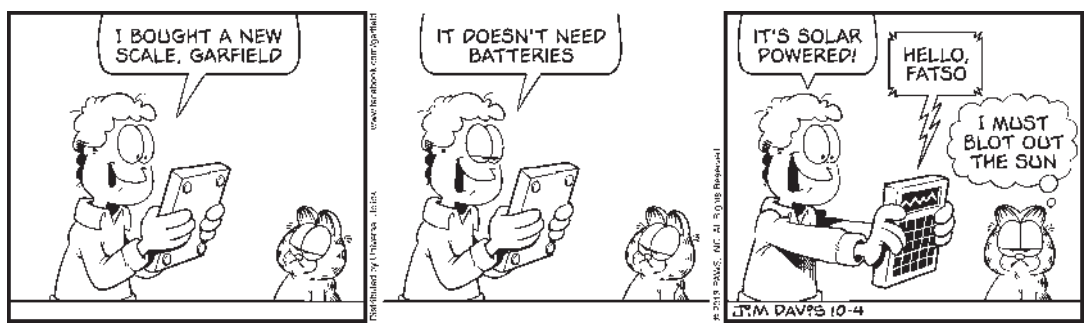
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, YOUR TEST WAS AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE! IT'S OBVIOUS YOU HAVEN'T READ ANY OF THE MATERIAL.
OUR FIRST PRESIDENT WAS NOT CHEF BOY-AR-DEE AND YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED TO HAVE TURNED IN SUCH PREPOSTEROUS ANSWERS!
I JUST DON'T TEST WELL.

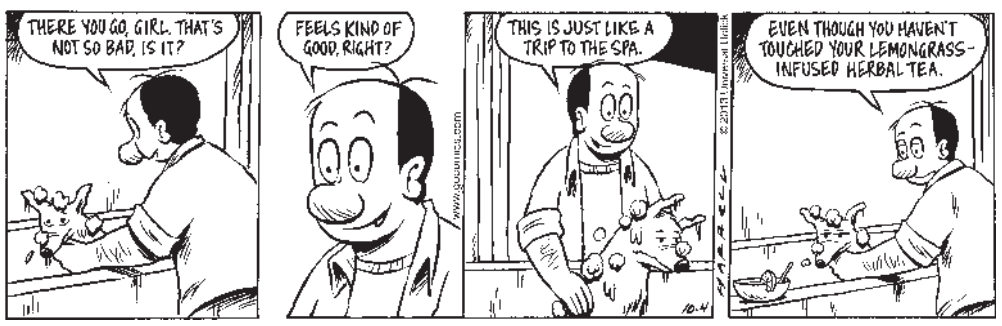
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THERE YOU GO, GIRL. THAT'S NOT SO BAD, IS IT?
FEELS KIND OF GOOD, RIGHT?
THIS IS JUST LIKE A TRIP TO THE SPA.
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR LEMONGRASS-INFUSED HERBAL TEA.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR HONOR, WE THE JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT GUILTY.
AND WE TRIED TO COME UP WITH A SEVERE PUNISHMENT.
WE THINK A COUPLE WEEKS OF JURY DUTY SHOULD DO IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

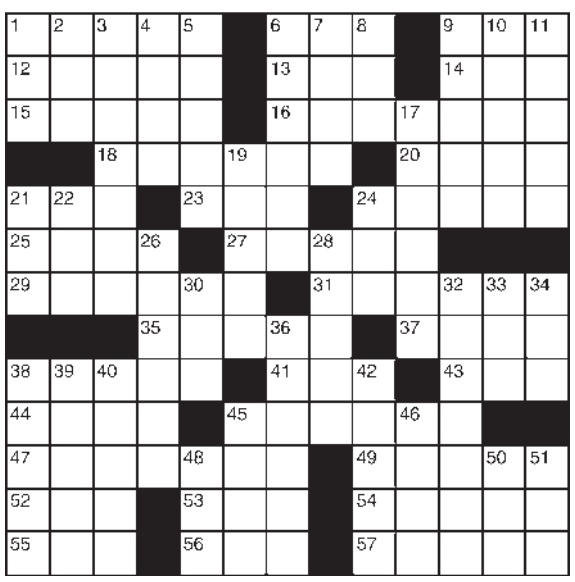
ACROSS
1 Unemotional
6 Hot tub
9 St. crosser
12 Japanese fencing style
13 Without further ado
14 Pout protrusion
15 Bury
16 Pizza sauce herb
18 E-commerce giant
20 African antelope
21 Tavern
23 With 27-Across, "30 Rock" role
24 Without complete clarity
25 Met melody
27 See 23-Across
29 Kind of clock
31 Well-armed predators?
35 "Fiddlesticks!"
37 Approximately
38 Up to now
41 Shriner's chapeau
43 Jeremy of basketball
44 Taleteller
45 "Out of —"
47 Shakespeare tragedy
49 Canonical hours
52 Ultramodernist
53 "— the ramparts ..."
54 West Point newbie
55 Tokyo's old name
56 Marry
57 Tale

DOWN
1 Tackle moguls
2 X rating?
3 Erie neighbor
4 Footnote abbr.
5 Reef makeup
6 Nap
7 Blue material?
8 Astound
9 Frighten
10 LP material
11 Strong adhesive
17 Enter
19 Nada
21 Sheepish comment
22 Illustrations
24 "What's up, —?"
26 Current unit
28 Landscaper's machine
30 Follower (Suff.)
32 Disney World city
33 Omega preceder
34 Charged bit
36 Be able to buy
38 Unescorted
39 Located
40 Google rival
42 Galvanization materials
45 Sheltered
46 Paint layer
48 Sad
50 Always, in verse
51 Pigs' digs

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	M	P	■	M	I	D	■	S	M	U	G
A	G	A	R	■	U	K	E	■	I	O	T	A
R	U	L	E	■	N	E	E	■	G	O	A	L
D	E	I	F	I	C	■	S	Y	N	C	H	S
■	■	■	A	S	H	■	■	O	O	H	■	■
B	O	M	B	■	I	M	M	U	N	I	Z	E
A	B	A	■	■	N	E	A	■	■	N	O	W
A	I	R	T	I	G	H	T	■	O	G	E	E
■	■	■	C	O	T	■	■	C	P	U	■	■
R	E	H	A	S	H	■	H	I	T	E	C	H
U	N	I	S	■	I	I	I	■	R	A	R	E
D	I	N	T	■	N	O	N	■	U	S	E	R
E	D	G	Y	■	T	U	G	■	N	E	W	S

Yesterday's answer 10-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachael Leigh Cook, 34; Alicia Silverstone, 37; Christoph Waltz, 57; Susan Sarandon, 67.

Happy Birthday: Timing will be crucial. Ease into any pursuit you choose with caution and a strict budget. Patience and building a bright future with a solid base is your route to success. The people you care for most will be the most difficult when it comes to getting support and encouragement. Do the calculations and strive to reach your goals. Your numbers are 4, 11, 22, 24, 30, 34, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Refrain from making a hasty decision because someone is pressuring you. Costly products will disappoint you. Question relationships that appear to be one-sided. A positive move or change at home will improve your everyday routine and overall attitude. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be proud and show off your skills. You will impress someone you would like to get to know better. A short trip or taking on a new pastime that helps you expand your awareness will also lead to a good connection. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make last-minute alterations that will ensure you have some fun. The activities or events you participate in will allow you to impress others while you make new friends and discover talents that you can put to good use. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have to be stern as well as disciplined when it comes to helping others and getting things done. Do something that will make you feel good about who you are and how you look. Socializing will encourage love, romance and entertainment. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let your surroundings or domestic situation get you down. Do something about whatever you don't like and keep moving in a positive direction. Bringing about the necessary changes will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Enjoy friends and the acquaintances you meet while traveling or taking part in an event that interests you. Don't be afraid to push someone who has been indecisive and holding you in suspense. Ask for an answer and keep moving. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a wait-and-see attitude regarding emotional matters. Think about your vocation and what you need to do in order to expand your interests and boost your income. Don't let anyone push you in a direction you don't want to go. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Explore new places and indulge in creative endeavors that allow you to use your imagination. Live, love and look for happiness. Make unusual alterations at home that will contribute to the projects you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Clear a space at home that you can use to learn, develop and expand a new interest. Share your thoughts and plans with people who are heading in the same direction. Discipline will be required but it will pay off in the end. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take action and live up to your promises. Recycle an old idea or service in a way that allows you to increase your earning power. A romantic relationship will be enhanced if you suggest something passionate. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think about your future. An emotional matter will send you in a direction that will allow you to increase your assets through a personal investment. What you offer will interest someone who can contribute to your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do something enjoyable. Socialize, take a pleasure trip or engage in an event that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Love is on the rise, and making romantic plans will ensure that you build a solid base for a happy future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent and pointed. You are enterprising and self-sufficient.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2		1			
		1	3		5	6		
	5						7	
6	4						2	7
7	9						3	1
	2						8	
		8	1		6	5		
			7		9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	9	2	6	7	5	3	1
7	6	3	1	5	9	2	8	4
1	2	5	3	4	8	6	9	7
5	3	6	8	9	4	7	1	2
2	9	1	5	7	3	8	4	6
8	7	4	6	1	2	3	5	9
6	1	8	9	2	5	4	7	3
9	5	7	4	3	6	1	2	8
3	4	2	7	8	1	9	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

UNCLE BEN'S RICE **Solution: 9 letters**

L	I	Y	K	A	O	S	O	H	C	R	A	T	S	R
A	L	W	R	I	N	S	T	A	N	T	W	B	P	E
R	O	E	H	F	B	T	A	E	H	W	H	A	A	C
U	C	H	W	I	R	R	M	L	A	C	O	G	N	I
T	C	C	S	R	T	I	O	U	A	M	L	N	I	P
A	O	T	Ⓞ	E	A	E	T	W	S	D	E	I	S	E
N	R	O	B	Ⓥ	N	H	I	S	N	H	G	E	H	M
O	B	Y	U	O	Ⓔ	L	N	U	C	A	R	T	L	I
S	O	E	T	T	D	Ⓝ	T	O	R	F	A	O	I	T
I	X	L	T	S	W	T	U	D	D	A	I	R	O	A
M	D	D	E	A	Y	N	E	F	K	R	N	P	B	M
M	A	E	R	C	T	N	V	C	A	M	O	R	E	S
E	I	M	E	R	E	R	I	C	E	N	A	G	N	A
R	R	N	Y	F	F	U	L	F	U	N	C	L	E	B
F	A	S	T	T	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	Y	E	D

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Bag, Basmati, Ben, Bistro, Boil, Box, Bran, Broccoli, Brown, Butter, Chewy, Country, Cream, Fancy, Farm, Fast, Feed, Fluffy, Garden, Gordon, Harwell, Instant, Medley, Mint, Mushroom, Natural, Nutty, Oven, Protein, Quality, Quick, Recipe, Rice, Salad, Simmer, Soak, Spanish, Starch, Steam, Stir-fry, Stove, Time, Tomato, Uncle, Warm, Wheat, White, Whole-grain, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Tempura

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 s "Celebrities Vo . 3." To purchase, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaludick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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---

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Email: lmanacop670@gmail.com
Tel. No.: (670)233-2652
P.O. Box 503859 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950

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Closing Date: October 9, 2013

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LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $6.05 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Four (4).

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Pre-employment drug testing required.

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Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Korean Speaking. Handle Korean and Russian market.

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Job Qualification: College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking, write monthly report to Head Office in Japan.

Position: (1) Sous Chef **Salary:** $1,887.00 monthly
Job Qualification: College Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

Position: Asst. Manager, Maintenance **Salary:** $2,040.00 monthly
Job Qualification: College Graduated/Mechanical Engineer / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (2) Supervisor, Front Desk **Salary:** $8.16 per hour
Job Qualification: minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience. Preferably Japanese Speaking.

Position: (1) Accountant **Salary:** $6.63 per hour
Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (8) Waitress/Waiter **Salary:** $5.55 to $5.67 per hour
Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (3) Electrician **Salary:** $5.55 to $5.67 per hour
Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
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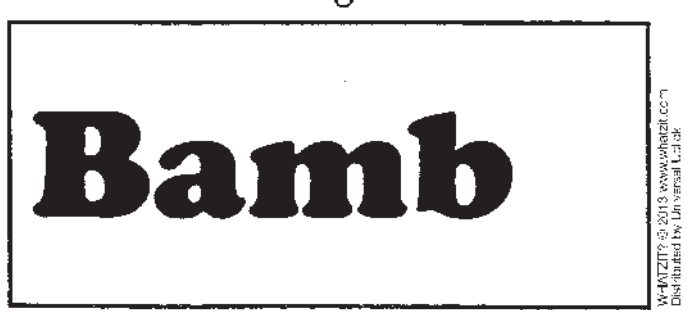


Find today's solution in classified section

Cobb, Rays roll over Indians in AL wild card

CLEVELAND (AP)—They shut off the lights, cranked up the music and turned their clubhouse into a nightclub.

As Pitbull's "Don't Stop The Party" boomed off walls covered by plastic sheets, the Tampa Bay Rays sprayed each other with Silly String and emptied bottles of champagne as quickly as they could open them.

This road trip isn't ending anytime soon.

"Nobody wants to go home," pitcher Alex Cobb said.

Next stop: Boston.

Dodging trouble for nearly seven innings, Cobb and the Rays pitched their way to another must-have win on the road, beating the Cleveland Indians 4-0 Wednesday night in the AL wild-card game.

Cobb, who missed a chunk of the regular season after he was hit in the head by a line drive, quieted a thundering Cleveland crowd and ended the Indians' unexpected season just one game into October.

Delmon Young homered in the third inning off rookie Danny Salazar as the Rays, playing in their third city over four days, advanced to face the AL East champion Red Sox in the best-of-five division series starting Friday.

"I felt like we've done it and been here before," said Desmond Jennings, who hit a two-run double in the fourth to give the Rays a 3-0 lead. "The road we took to get here was pretty tough, going to New York, Toronto, playing a game in Texas."

Cobb's comeback in August from his frightening injury helped stabilize the Rays, who have spent the past two weeks winning crucial games to reach the postseason for the fourth time in six years. He pitched out of massive jams in the fourth and fifth, and allowed two runners to reach in the seventh before turning it over to Tampa Bay's dependable bullpen.

Tampa Bay Rays' Alex Cobb pitches against the Cleveland Indians in the AL wild-card baseball game Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013, in Cleveland. The Rays won, 4-0.

"Maybe it was good that I got into some jams," Cobb said. "It made me slow down and make the pitches that I needed to."

Fernando Rodney worked a perfect ninth, striking out Lonnie Chisenhall to end it. Rodney dropped to one knee, pointed skyward and soon was mobbed by all the Rays, who may be homesick but aren't complaining about being Boston-bound.

"I've got to wash some clothes or buy some socks or something," first baseman James Loney said.

Unfazed by a raucous, red-clad, towel-waving crowd of 43,579 that roared like a jet engine inside Progressive Field, the Rays handled the Indians and will now face their division nemesis, the Red Sox, who went 12-7 against Tampa Bay this season.

David Price set the tone for the Rays' postseason run by throwing a complete game to beat Texas in the wild-card tiebreaker Monday night, and Cobb picked up where his teammate left off. After he was pulled in the seventh, Cobb walked to the dugout where he was first greeted with a high-five from Price.

"The adrenaline was going pretty fast there in the early going," Cobb said. "Once Delmon hit that home run, I tried to fill up the strike zone. My stuff wasn't the best, but I made my defense work. They were awesome."

Since Sunday, the Rays have won in Toronto, Texas and now Cleveland. Their next destination - Fenway Park - won't be any more welcoming.

"It's been a blur. I don't know if that's because of the concussion or it's just been up and down all year," Cobb said. "You know, I came out of camp not even knowing if I was going to be on the team."

A few months later, he wasn't even sure he would pitch again this season.

On June 15, Cobb suffered a concussion when he was struck in the right ear by a line drive hit by Kansas City's Eric Hosmer. Cobb was sidelined for 50 games and Tuesday recalled lying on his sofa and wondering if he would be able to help the Rays again. In 2011, he missed the playoffs after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot.

But not only did Cobb go 5-1 after his scary moment, the 25-year-old finished 11-3 in 22 starts and manager Joe Maddon didn't hesitate giving him the ball for the winner-take-all wild-card game.

"They're nerve-racking, but it's going to be no different in Boston," Evan Longoria said. "There's a little comfort knowing we're going to play a series, but at the same time we have to play every game like this one."

The Indians went from 94 losses a year ago to 92 wins under first-year manager Terry Francona and won their last 10 games to make the postseason for the first time since 2007.

But it was one and done for Cleveland, which didn't capitalize on scoring opportunities. The first three hitters, Michael Bourn, Nick Swisher and Jason Kipnis, went a combined 0 for 12.

"It hurts. We didn't want to go home yet," Francona said.

The road-tested Rays, who have traveled 3,627 miles since leaving home on Sept. 23, gave Cobb a three-run cushion on Jennings' double.

Low-spending teams get chance in MLB playoffs

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball's playoffs no longer are an exclusive club of high rollers.

Pittsburgh, 26th among the 30 teams with a $73.6 million payroll, rolled past Cincinnati on Tuesday night and into an NL division-series matchup against St. Louis.

Oakland, 27th on the spending list at $71.1 million according to Major League Baseball's latest figures, won the AL West and faces Detroit. And Tampa Bay, 28th at $65.6 million, plays the wild-card game on Wednesday night against Cleveland, 21st at $88.6 million.

"We've created things that have really helped our sport. They've really helped us in a myriad of ways," Commissioner Bud Selig said with pride Tuesday. "The economics - they were archaic. I used to joke that we were still in back in the Ebbets Field-Polo Grounds days. What I call the reformation of the economic system certainly created a lot of this, there is no question."

Sure, some of the big spenders found their way into October. The Los Angeles Dodgers raised their spending to $236.8 million during the season and are currently about $100,000 behind the Yankees. (Final figures may change depending on award bonuses and revisions).

Despite a No. 1 payroll, the Yankees finished tied for third in the AL East following an injury-filled season.

Boston is third at $174.1 million, Detroit fifth at $153.4 million, St. Louis 11th at $119.3 million and Cincinnati 13th at $113.3 million.

But half the playoff teams are from the bottom 50 percent in spending, with the A's, Rays, Pirates and Indians joined by Atlanta (16th at $95.3 million).

Increased revenue sharing has helped. But a team must make good draft picks and be prudent with contracts and clever with trades.

"I think that the playing field is not level, never will be. But we as the Pittsburgh Pirates have committed ourselves to never using that as an excuse," controlling owner Bob Nutting said just before the team's first postseason appearance since 1992. "Is it easier to build a great club with $200 million than with $75-$80 million? Absolutely. But I believe, have always believed and will continue to believe, that we can be competitive at that level. We need to make different decisions. We need to make smart decisions."

Parity has increased markedly. No team has won consecutive World Series since the New York Yankees took three in a row from 1998-2000.

Half of the 30 teams have made the expanded playoffs in the past two years. Twenty-one have reached postseason play in the last five, and every club except Kansas City and Toronto has appeared in the playoffs over the past 13 seasons.

Many accustomed to the October spotlight already are home. Missing out along with the Yankees were Philadelphia (fourth at $166.2 million), the Los Angeles Angels (sixth at $143.4 million), defending champion San Francisco (seventh at $141.3 million), Texas (eighth at $134.5 million) and Toronto (ninth at $125.9 million).

Pirates prep for Wainwright, Cardinals in division series

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The Pittsburgh Pirates are riding high after their first postseason victory in 21 years. They're confident they can beat anybody, anywhere.

A few hours after defeating Cincinnati in the NL wild-card game Tuesday night, the Pirates touched down in St. Louis. They're about to face another familiar foe in an unfamiliar month when they take on the NL Central champion Cardinals in a best-of-five division series.

"We know them, they know us," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. "There won't be any ball tricks, I hope. No Statue of Liberty plays."

A.J. Burnett, set to start the series opener Thursday, was a part of three New York Yankees teams that made it to October. He said Wednesday there's a sense of euphoria with this experience that was lacking before.

"I guess the main thing is, over in New York, it's expected every year, you know?" Burnett said. "You tend to get in there a couple of weeks before the season ends. And this one was more of a `Shock the world, we're going to do it, we made it!'"

The Pirates won the season series 10-9, but the Cardinals overtook them for the division lead with a four-game sweep at home in early September. St. Louis also has quite an advantage in postseason experience, with several holdovers from the 2011 World Series championship team and from last year, too, when St. Louis fell one win shy of a second straight pennant.

The Cardinals earned some time off after winning six in a row to end the season. They won their first NL Central crown since 2009 and secured home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs.

Their .330 average with runners in scoring position was the majors' best dating to 1974, when the statistic was first used. So far, they've done fine without injured Allen Craig, who missed almost all of September and isn't expected back from a left mid-foot sprain until at least the NL championship series.

"We played really well most of the year minus a couple of dips here and there that every team has," said Matt Holliday, who batted .378 over the final month to finish at .300. "I'd say, just try to roll that momentum into the postseason."

Adam Wainwright has to like this matchup, too. St. Louis' ace will pitch the opener and would also be available on full rest for a possible deciding Game 5. He went 1-0 with a 3.00 ERA in three starts against Pittsburgh this season.

Wainwright (19-9, 2.94 ERA) got rocked for 15 runs over eight innings in consecutive starts against the Reds. One of them he labeled, "the worst start of my career," before rebounding in the win that put the Cardinals in first place to stay. He was 4-0 in his final five starts, working seven or more innings in all of them except for a tuneup his last time out.

Peyton-type time or not, Romo in Manning shadow

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo had a Peyton Manning comparison dropped on him by his owner in the offseason.

Jerry Jones was talking about meeting rooms and film rooms when he said the Dallas quarterback would be putting in "Peyton Manning-type time" after he signed the richest contract in franchise history.

It's a good thing Jones didn't say anything about Peyton Manning-type statistics. So far this year, nobody compares.

Manning has the Denver Broncos at 4-0 with 16 touchdown passes and no interceptions heading into his first game at the Cowboys' $1.2 billion stadium Sunday.

Romo has just one interception, but his offense has been hit-or-miss in a 2-2 start.

"I think you've got to just play each play out, regardless of circumstance, what gives your team the best chance to score and to win the game," said Romo, who has eight touchdown passes and is fourth in the league in quarterback rating. "And then obviously, when it gets to a certain point in the game, you're going to have to do things to give your team a chance."

The best chance for the Cowboys is to keep scoring, which they didn't do in a loss at San Diego last weekend. Romo threw a pair of second-quarter touchdowns to Dez Bryant, but those were the only points for the offense. The Chargers scored the last 20 points in a 30-21 win.

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) is sacked by Kansas City Chiefs nose tackle Dontari Poe (92) during the first half of an NFL football game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013.

Part of the problem was Dallas didn't have the ball much after halftime. But the other part of the problem was stalling twice around midfield in the second half. The Cowboys probably can't afford to do that with Manning's Broncos averaging nearly 45 points.

"You've got to do things to keep drives alive and take advantage of your opportunities," Dallas tight end Jason Witten said. "I don't think you can get outside your system, the way you play, and play into their hands. You have to trust that and obviously you have a lot of respect in what they're doing as a football team."

Jones tied his quarterback to Manning with the offseason mantra that Romo would be more involved in everything about the Cowboys.

It started with a statement from Jones the day Romo signed a six-year, $108 million extension in March and the owner said his quarterback would have a lot more involvement in the offense. A few later, he offered the "Peyton Manning-type time" sound bite.

Critics took it to mean Romo wasn't invested enough in the first place, and the Cowboys have been trying to shoot that down ever since.

They didn't have to make their pitch to Manning.

"Look, every quarterback that is starting in this league multiple years puts in time," Manning said. "I feel like I do what I need to do to get ready to play. But any quarterback who is a starter year after year, I promise you they're putting the work in in the facility on their own. Otherwise, it shows up and you lose your job."

Dallas coach Jason Garrett has been deflecting the criticism for months, but always stopping short of offering many details on how much Romo's involvement has changed. Garrett, once the backup to Troy Aikman in Dallas, was the offensive coordinator for Romo's first full season as a starter in 2007, and they've been together ever since.

"I don't know that it's appreciably different, but the idea is that we are really as a team trying to emphasize that and ... empower him to do that more and more," Garrett said. "You want him to like the plays you are calling into his helmet so he can go play his best football."

With Romo more involved and Bill Callahan replacing Garrett as the play-caller, the offense is heavily dissected every week. When the running game sputtered in a loss at Kansas City, Dallas answered with 175 yards rushing from DeMarco Murray.

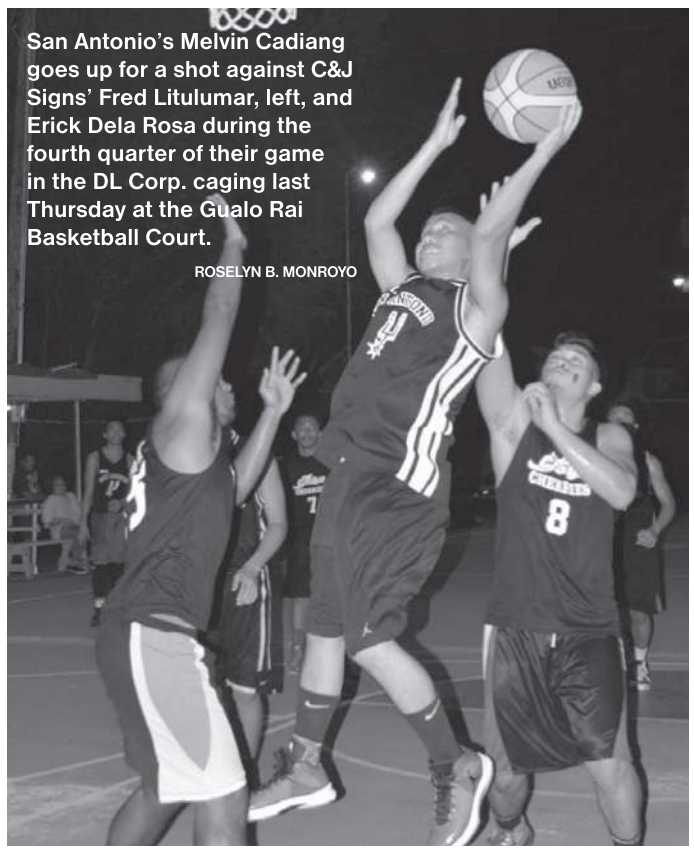
This week, the questions revolve around whether Dallas can sustain anything - and whether they can exploit the only weakness in Denver's stats so far. The Broncos are close to the bottom of the league in pass defense.

"I think probably the reason that the pass numbers aren't quite as good as they'd want them to be is because they've been way ahead in ballgames and teams have to throw the ball over and over and over again," Garrett said. "They're willing to give up those yards to win the ballgame."

Opponents just have a hard time keeping up with - and comparing to - Manning.

San Antonio survives C&J Signs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



San Antonio's Melvin Cadiang goes up for a shot against C&J Signs' Fred Litulumar, left, and Erick Dela Rosa during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Thursday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Antonio held strong against C&J Signs Cherries' second-half rally to eke out a 69-63 victory in the second game in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Antonio led by as much as 18 points in the third quarter, but saw its advantage down to one past the halfway mark of the final canto before Nevin Salem made a momentum-halting basket and Melvin Cadiang drilled insurance shots to avoid a total meltdown.

The third canto began with San Antonio on top, 38-20, and it duplicated its biggest lead midway in that period, 51-33, before Ralph Francisco and Erick Dela Rosa teamed up in a 12-2 windup to cut the deficit to single digit, 45-53.

Dela Rosa and Francisco continued to lead C&J Signs' recovery in the fourth canto with the former scoring the team's first 5 points in the final frame and the latter going 3-for-4 in his last two trips at the stripe to slice San Antonio's lead to a hair, 55-56, with still 5:04 left on the clock.

C&J Signs had a chance to get its first taste of the lead after San Antonio faltered another offensive set, but the former also could not convert a basket. San Antonio then controlled the rebound, paving the way for a Salem fastbreak basket and giving his team more breathing room, 58-55. Another botched C&J Signs play returned possession to San Antonio and Cadiang made it a 4-point game, 59-55, after he drew a foul on the other end and split his charities.

With his team down by only four will still over two minutes left in the game, Dela Rosa refused to give up and nailed two straight inside baskets. However, Cadiang countered with his own string of field goals, as the San Antonio wingman scored 8 of his team's last 10 points to secure their debut victory in Pool A. Aranda made the other 2 points and top-scored for San Antonio with his 15. Bryle Alegre added 13, while Cadiang finished with 11. Dela Rosa paced C&J Signs with his 22 markers, while Francisco contributed 16.

Fliptop 64, Kixx 58

In Pool A, Fliptop outclassed Kixx Engine Oil.

Ronnel Gamboa led all scorers for Fliptop with his 20 points, but it was the timely baskets of Won Joo Jung in the fourth quarter that lifted Fliptop past Kixx. Jung dropped 7 of his 14 points in the fourth period, including the last 4 markers that sealed it for Fliptop.

Fliptop led from start to finish, but faced a big threat from Kixx in the second quarter as the latter moved within a deuce, 28-30, after falling behind by 10 at the end of the third quarter, 10-20. Kixx then widened the gap in the third with six of its players making it to the scoreboard. Jung had only 2 points in the third, but saved his best for last in the fourth to foil Kixx's comeback bids.

First Game

Fliptop 64 – Gamboa 20, Jung 14, Norita 9, Sablan 8, Babauta 4, Isip 2, Hernandez 2.

Kixx Engine Oil 58 – De Guzman 20, Guiab 7, Tibayan 5, Farinas 4, Tengco 4, Pangelinan 4, Patawaran 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-10, 30-28, 49-41, 64-58.

Second Game

San Antonio 69 – Aranda 15, Alegre 13, Cadiang 11, De Guzman 9, Caro 8, Salem 6, Del Rosario 2.

C&J Signs Cherries 63 – Dela Rosa 22, Francisco 16, Maranan 7, Factor 6, Salas 4, Litulumar 4, Tinio 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-8, 38-20, 53-45, 69-63.

NBA set for ambitious international schedule

NEW YORK (AP)— David Stern is soon on his way to the Philippines and Taiwan. After that, it's off to Beijing and Shanghai.

His final months as commissioner are the NBA's boldest yet when it comes to playing internationally, and he thinks bringing the league around the globe will remain important long after he's left office in February.

''Numerically, without question, to have 10 games this season, it's our most ambitious,'' Stern said of the schedule that begins this weekend.

''It's really just a continued statement to our international audience of our attempts to play games in their time zones and to demonstrate that we think it's a global game and we appreciate their support and interest.''

There will be 12 teams playing outside the U.S. and Canada, the most ever, and the league will play regular-season games in two countries beyond those for the first time.

There are stops in old standbys and first-time trips to cities in Brazil and Spain that will be hosting major international competitions in the next few years.

International growth, long a passion of Stern's, has become something much more: It's mandatory.

''If you listen to Coca-Cola or GE or the great brands - Samsung, Sony, Apple - increasingly more and more of their revenues and profits are going to come from outside the United States. The numbers make it clear, because there are 300-plus million people in the U.S. and we're approaching 7 billion outside the U.S,'' Stern said in a phone interview.

''And so looking at every enterprise that's doing business, communicating with consumers and the like, I have seen international as a growth opportunity that will continue literally for decades, and our sport is one that crosses borders, along with soccer, in a wonderful way. And we have just scratched the surface.''

The schedule opens Saturday with Oklahoma City playing Turkey's Fenerbahce Ulker in Istanbul, where Kevin Durant was MVP of the world basketball championship in 2010. Philadelphia plays the next day at Bilbao, Spain, a host site for next summer's renamed World Cup of Basketball.

The Thunder then meet the 76ers on Oct. 8 in Manchester, England, before Indiana and Houston face each other in the Philippines and Taiwan - the latter the home country of Rockets guard Jeremy Lin's parents.

''I have no idea what to expect,'' Lin said. ''It's a preseason game, so you never really know what's going to happen in terms of the plan or minutes or whatever. But I just know it's going to be two games against a really good team and the opportunity to work on some stuff. Hopefully give the fans across the world something to cheer about and a fun event to attend.''

The Lakers and Warriors play twice in China, and Chicago faces Washington in Rio de Janeiro. The games that count include San Antonio against Minnesota in Mexico City in December, followed by Atlanta playing Brooklyn in London in January.

Every location has a reason. Turkey is one of the league's largest social media markets. Stern said the Philippines is a top-three basketball market with a new arena in Manila.

PIC to host Bike For Life Oct. 20

Want to get in shape and see the island on two wheels? Sign up for an easy 50 kilometer race that takes place on October 20.

Dubbed as the Bike For Life, the race is one of several PIC signature sporting events which is fun for the whole family.

Registration starts at 5:30am and race begins at 6am at PIC Saipan. The Top 3 finishers in the male and female divisions will win prizes and medals. The top finishers in each category (male and female road and mountain bike divisions) will win a free entry to the 7th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle, another exciting bike race scheduled for December 7.

Registration forms are available at the PIC Front Desk. Just $15 registers you in the Bike For Life race, complete with a continental breakfast to get your energy going. For more information, call Dennis Tababa at 237-5147 or email dennis.tababa@picsaipan.com ***(PR)***

SHIRLEY'S

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BOYS U18
MP United 5, Tan Holdings FC 0

In the boys U18 division, MP United improved to a 2-0 record after cruising past Tan Holdings FC last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

MP United, which won its season debut against Paire FC, 6-2, got two goals from Tanapon Unsa to maintain a clean record. Brian Lee, Jehn Joyner, and Jireh Yobech chipped in one goal apiece.

Unsa put MP United in the board early with his goal in the seventh minute, while Joyner made it a 2-0 advantage with his goal in the 35th minute. Four minutes later, Unsa earned his second goal to hand MP United a 3-0 halftime advantage.

MP United kept going in the second half, while goals remained elusive for Tan Holdings FC (0-1). Yobech, who also had one goal in their win over Paire (0-1), got his second when he scored in the 55th minute, while Lee duplicated the feat six minutes later.

BOYS U15
MP United 4, Shirley's FC 0

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Friday, MP United also moved up to a 2-0 mark in the boys U15 division after shutting out Shirley's FC.

MP United gained goals from three different players and got an own goal to nail back-to-back victories early in the season. Sun Joon Tenorio drew first blood for MP United when he found the back of the net in the seventh minute. Daniel Lim was next, scoring in the 22nd, while Edwin Kim hit the last goal in the first half (33th minute).

The victory over Shirley's FC (0-1) was MP United's second shutout win, as the latter also blanked Paire FC (0-1), 6-0, in Week 1 of the boys U15 league.

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teammate Patrick Tenorio remained in third place with his average of .433 off a 13-for-30 performance at the plate.

The Yankees M.J. Sakisat also retained the No. 4 spot, but he now shares it with the Braves' A.J. Lizama and the Padres' Kier Agda. All three are 10-for-28 at bat and hold similar batting averages of .357. The Yankees' Roke Tenorio went down from sixth to seventh place with his .345 batting average (10-for-29), followed by the Giants' Franco Nakamura (.313/10-for-32), the Braves' A.J. Evangelista (.310/9-for-29), the Padres' Lancaster Secharmidal (.281/9-for-32), the Giants' Kenji Yamagata (.273/9-for-33) and Jesse Brel (.265/9-for-34), the Dodgers' Jhace Palacios (.250/9-for-36), and the Padres' Kainoa Wanket (.250/8-for-32).

The Top 15 batting leaders were based on 28 or more times at bat.

In the runs race, the Giants' K.J. Deleon Guerrero still leads the field with his 14, while the Padres' Verlance Secharmidal and Brel have 12 each. Darion Jones and Khobby Kaipat are still tied in doubles with four apiece, while the Braves' Cody Kaipat and Giants' Devyn Flores are ahead in the triples and RBIs with two and seven, respectively.

In the pitching race, three Tigers pitchers barged into the Top 5 joining No.1 J.J. Lifoifoi and the second-ranked Brel. Lifoifoi took a breather this week for the Braves to maintain his 0.00 ERA (13 innings pitched and no earned runs allowed), while Brel shared the No. 2 to 3 spots with Reyes as they hold identical 0.46 ERAs and pitched 15.1 innings, giving up only one earned run. Reyes' teammates Bret Halstead and Keene Leon Guerrero are in fourth and fifth places, respectively, after posting 0.82 and 0.93 ERAs. Halstead allowed only two runs in 17 innings, while Leon Guerrero worked out 15 innings and gave up two runs.

Rounding out the Top 10 are Wanket (1.07), Jones (1.11), the Braves' Logan Martin (1.17), the Dodgers' Brian Camacho (1.24), the Tigers' Jose Lizama (1.47), and the Yankees' Gino Dela Cruz (1.47).

In the strikeouts chart, the Dodgers' Brian Camacho dislodged Jose Lizama from the top spot with his 24 Ks against the latter's 22. Lifoifoi, Jones, and Nakamura are tied for third with 20 strikeouts apiece.

FED

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have to be patient and hope for the best. There is nothing we can do here but wait for the people up there (Congress) to get their acts together," Race said.

The NMITA official and CNMI coach added the upcoming tournament under the association's calendar will not be hit by the closure. NMITA's next competition is the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, which will kick off late next month.

The AMP Park was one of the 401 national parks closed due to the federal government shutdown. A budget standoff was still in effect as of press-time despite president Barack Obama's meeting at the Oval Office with House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, the Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

According to the Associated Press reports, "the president made clear to the leaders that he is not going to negotiate over the need for Congress to act to reopen the government or to raise the debt limit to pay the bills Congress has already incurred."

House Republicans have been asking Obama to cut funding or delay the implementation of his healthcare law before they approve spending measures that would end the shutdown.

2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dodgers first baseman Nathan Camacho throws to second for a double play during their game against the Braves in the first round of the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

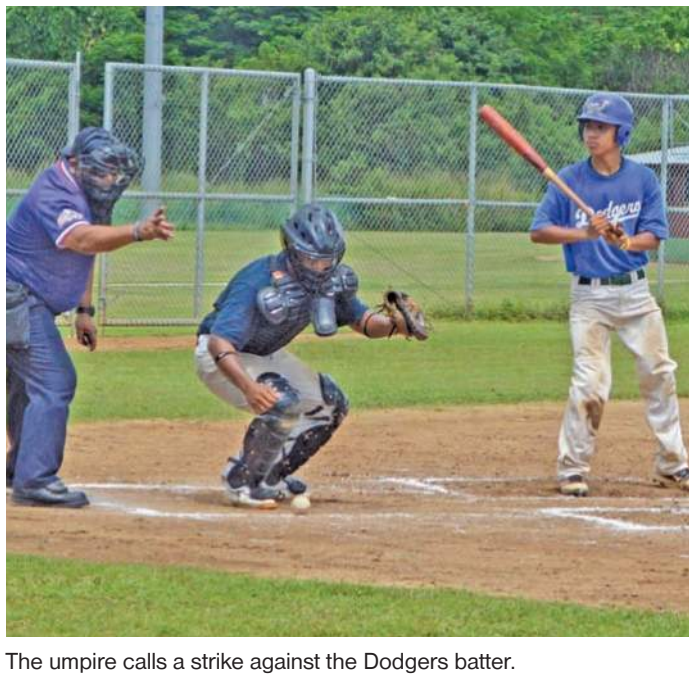
A Braves runner makes it home safely after a Dodgers throwing error.

A Yankees batter throws back the bat before walking to first base.

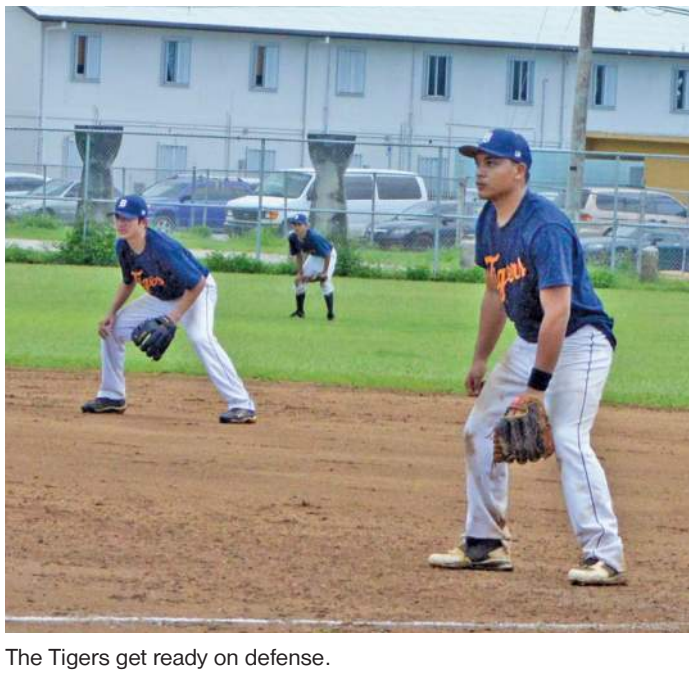
A Braves runner sprints to first base.

The Yankees huddle before heading to the field against the Braves.

The Yankees' Darion Jones pitches against the Braves.



The umpire calls a strike against the Dodgers batter.



The Tigers get ready on defense.

A Padres runner celebrates after scoring off a Yankees error.

A Cardinals pitcher throws to the Braves.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Shirley's FC shuts out MP United FC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The girls U15 division competition in the 2013 NMIFA Youth Fall League kicked off last Saturday with Shirley's FC blanking MP United, 4-0, at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

The opening of the girls U15 league was stalled for two weeks due to rain and when competition started, both teams were groping for form. Shirley's FC then finally broke the ice in the 40th minute with Katrina Costales scoring.

MP United tried to tie the game in the first half and had several attempts, but could not complete them, while Shirley's FC got into its rhythm in the second half en route to the easy win. Dianne Pablo gave Shirley's its second goal in the 51st minute, while Samantha Manacop drilled back-to-back goals in the 57th and 64th minute.

Two games were set in the opening week of the girls U15 division with Tan Holdings getting a free win after Matansa FC did not have enough players for the match.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's FC and MP United players nudge each other as they chase the ball down the sideline during their game in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

New batting leader in DYS youth league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Dodgers batter gets ready at the plate during their first round game against the Braves in the Triple A league at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Dodgers' Craig Aguon leads the batting race in the second round of the league.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Dodgers' Craig Aguon has overtaken the Padres' Khobby Kaipat for the lead in the batting race in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League.

Aguon, who was in second place in the batting leaders list released last Monday, moved up to No. 1 after three matches were played this week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Dodgers second baseman went 1-for-2 in their 14-7 upset of the Giants last Tuesday to have a batting average of .467 (14-for-30).

Kaipat lost the top spot to Aguon after hitting 0-for-3 in the Padres loss to the Braves last Wednesday. The hard-hitting Padres slugger went 16-for-36 for a batting average of .444. Kaipat's

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Fed shutdown hits tennis community, too

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal shutdown also hit the local tennis community, as the American Memorial Park tennis courts have been closed since last Wednesday.

According to Joy Minor, mother of CNMI's No. 1 U18 player Thea Minor, many players went to the court last Wednesday afternoon and were greeted with locked gates of the four courts. Channelizer cones (traffic cones) were also in placed at the entrance of the tennis facility.

Thea Minor, who has been playing at the AMP courts since she was 8 years old, said this was the first time she saw the facility locked and she is hoping it will open soon or players will have to settle for "walling."

Lydia Tan, who represented the CNMI to the Micronesian Games in Palau in 2010, shared the younger Minor and other tennis players' sentiments.

"Found out this morning (Wednesday) that the AMP tennis courts are padlocked due to the federal government closure. It's so sad for all tennis players. I hope it will open soon," Tan wrote in her Facebook account.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race believed the closure will not be long and compromise among the lawmakers will soon be reached to get things back to normal.

"We (members of the tennis community) are one of the many affected by the shutdown. However, there are others who are more affected by this, so we just

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The gate on one of the tennis courts at the American Memorial Park has been locked since Wednesday after the federal government shut down.